

King thanks House for backing Iraq

AMMAN (Petra) — The speaker of the Lower House of Parliament, Mr. Akel Al Fayez, on Wednesday received a cable from His Majesty King Hussein in which the King thanked the House for their unanimous support of Iraq's battle against the Iranian aggression. The King's cable to the House came in response to a cable which the deputies sent following their session on Feb. 18. The deputies' cable pledged support for the King's wise leadership and praised the efforts the monarch has undertaken to extend help and support for the Iraqi brothers. The King's cable thanked the deputies for their firm stand and support to Iraq and the Iraqi brothers, who are defending the pride of the Arab Nation and protecting its future. "All of us should support Iraq, which is confronting the Iranian evil plans which are a threat to those of the Israelis; namely to weaken the Arab Nation," the King said.

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Levy confirms Lebanese held in Israeli jails

TEL AVIV (AP) — Moshe Levy, the Israeli army's chief of staff, revealed on Wednesday that "some" Lebanese prisoners seized in last week's sweep of South Lebanese villages had been transferred to Israel. Last year's transfer of 1,132 Arab prisoners from Lebanon to Israel was criticized by the International Committee of the Red Cross as a violation of Geneva Conventions on the treatment of prisoners. The army, searching for two soldiers captured by the Hezbollah group, detained about 170 people during a six-day operation that ended last Saturday, Levy told the foreign press association. Many of the 170 were released after interrogation but others were still being questioned, said Levy. He declined to say how many prisoners were still being held.

Soviet negotiator: U.S. proposals would not help

GENEVA (R) — The latest United States arms control proposals on medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe and Asia would not help achieve an agreement, chief Soviet negotiator, Viktor Karpov said Wednesday. Mr. Karpov told reporters the Soviet Union had suggested an interim agreement on medium-range nuclear missiles, but "it depends on the American side now. Their position up to now... won't help to make an agreement."

Iran detains two more Frenchmen

PARIS (AP) — Iranian authorities arrested two more French citizens Wednesday morning and were planning to expel them, the French Foreign Ministry said. French officials still have no information about a French businessman, Gilles Picot, arrested Monday morning with four other French citizens who were later released. The French charge d'affaires in Tehran, Pierre Lafrance, has said he believed the arrests were "a sign of the discontent of the Iranian authorities over the expulsion of Iranian citizens from France."

Israel arrests 18 Arabs in Golan

MAJDEL SHAMS, Golan Heights (R) — Police in the Israeli-annexed Golan Heights arrested 18 Arabs overnight after violence flared during a visit by Prime Minister Shimon Peres. Three policemen were injured on Tuesday as hundreds of youths hurled stones, brandished sticks and chanted "the Golan Heights is Syrian" and "Palestine is Arab."

Duvallier files case against France

PARIS (R) — Former Haitian dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier has begun legal proceedings against the French government to obtain the right to move freely in France, the Interior Ministry said Wednesday. Mr. Duvalier and his family, who fled to France on Feb. 7, have been confined to a hotel in the south-eastern French town of Talloires since his arrival.

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Jordan will remain faithful to Palestinian cause, King pledges

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein announced on Wednesday that the foundations and on which the Feb. 11, 1985, Jordan-PLO agreement was based remain alive "because Jordan believes in the unity of the peoples of the two banks of Jordan and we will defend this unity with all our might and power."

"Though Jordan cannot continue political coordination with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) it will remain faithful to the Palestine cause and will extend all possible help to the Palestinian people to enable them to regain their rights and lands," the King said. "We support the PLO if it addresses itself to saving the Palestinians from occupation and to safeguarding Palestinian land and ending the sufferings of the Palestinian people," the King said in an address to delegations representing the West Bank areas of Nablus, Bethlehem, Beit Jala, Beit Sahour, Housan, Nablus, Irtas and Palestinians living in the East Bank.

"Our enemy continues to work world-wide and continues plans to confiscate our land in the occupied territories, and the question is: What to do to save the land and where to go from here?" King Hussein said.

He said: "The common enemy's evil intentions are now directed against Jordan which stands as a shield protecting the heart of the Arab Nation and therefore it is incumbent on us to examine our position and frankly discuss our situation."

Referring to the terminated political coordination with the PLO leadership, the King said: "Acting on the belief that the PLO represented the Palestinian people, Jordan coordinated all its efforts and steps with its leadership. The PLO, we believe, should draw power from the people it represents and should act to achieve their aspirations."

"We have stopped political coordination with the PLO because it went back on its promises and its acceptance to work towards ensuring a just and lasting peace based on U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 which ensure the return of Palestinian land in return for peace."

"Such peace would have to come through an international conference in which the PLO should be represented along with all concerned parties," he said. "In our endeavours we have made progress towards holding such a conference. We opened the door for progress and in every step we coordinated with the PLO which accepted the Arab League resolutions and we together struggled to implement them through the projected international conference on the basis of exchanging land for peace."

"But suddenly we found the PLO going back on its promises and pledges and commitments to go along and implement these resolutions."

"For this reason Jordan terminated political coordination with the PLO leadership and I decided to submit the facts to you as Jordanians and Palestinians alike, because you have the right to know the facts in full and because it is a heavy responsibility for the future generations."

"What Jordan had sought to achieve was to free the land and the people from Israeli occupation."

(Continued on page 3)

First Chicago's case involving Petra Bank seen as 'cover-up'

By Salamah B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Banking sources here have dismissed a bid by the First Chicago Bank to involve Jordan's Petra Bank along with another Jordanian financial institution, the United Exchange Co., as an attempt on the part of the American bank to find a "scapegoat" to cover up for its "embarrassing management blunders."

The case, filed at the U.S. district court in Washington D.C. by First Chicago last week, accuses United Exchange and Petra Bank of what is known as a "check-kiting" scheme. The amount that First Chicago seeks is \$23.2 million, which, the U.S. major banking group says, was drawn in overdrafts by United Exchange. It is also seeking treble damages to be decided by the court.

According to available information on the claim put up by First Chicago, United Exchange, in December last year, deposited 29 cheques drawn on Petra Bank's Washington branch and made a multi-million dollar withdrawal against the cheques before they were cleared.

But the cheques were returned unpaid on the same day by Petra Bank since there were not enough funds to cover the amount involved, sources here told the Jordan Times. Petra Bank also notified the U.S. Federal Reserve Board of the affair immediately, the sources said. They said Petra Bank had no prior knowledge of the issuance of the cheques, who issued them or for what amount.

It appears that the pending lawsuit accuses Petra Bank of collusion with United Exchange in a plot to cheat the American banking group.

The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) said it had nothing to do with the whole issue. "It's simply a bank-customer problem," said a senior official of the CBJ. The official refused to be identified.

The Jordan Times tried to contact the United Exchange Company in Amman but the director of the gold and currency dealer was not immediately available for comment.

First Chicago is known to be more accident prone than many of its competitors, British reports say. According to press reports, the bank is maintaining an embarrassed silence about the whole affair.

While the sums of money involved are not going to break the Chicago Bank, the affair raises some embarrassing questions about the adequacy of First Chicago's management controls. First Chicago upset Wall Street in late 1984 by announcing a third-quarter loss after some surprisingly high loan losses and last summer it announced it was writing off \$55 million on its investment in a little-known Brazilian bank.

Banking circles here say that First Chicago's affair with United Exchange indicates that the bank made several management errors, including errors in its cheque-clearing system, credit approval and payment and receipts as well as reporting system.

First Chicago, the 10th largest in the United States, went wrong when it gave de facto facilities to United Exchange about five years ago. These facilities, which resulted in continuing overdrafts by United Exchange, are estimated to have reached \$1 billion in overall dealings.

According to sources, the value of the last United Exchange overdraft on First Chicago was about \$19 million and not \$23.2 million. They said the rest consisted of overdrafts from previous dealings.

Two senior vice presidents of First Chicago arrived in Amman during the first week of January and made contact with the Petra Bank management here to explore the possibility of recovering some of the money they lost in the affair. According to sources, the U.S. bank has included the overdraft in its non-performing loans.

Sources close to Petra Bank here said it was seriously considering a libel suit against First Chicago for involving the Jordanian bank's name in the affair.

Although Petra Bank was the last bank to be licensed in Jordan, it has taken a seat among the most prominent ones, characterised by an aggressive public relations campaign and the utilisation of the latest state of the art techniques known in the banking world. It was the first to introduce the 24-hour service auto-teller machines in the Kingdom.

Delegates to an Organisation of African Unity (OAU) meeting of African foreign ministers said they had approved a Libyan motion condemning "American plots and challenges" against Tripoli.

Secretary-General Idris Oumaru of Niger told the meeting: "We have in the past called on both sides to exercise restraint and have clearly declared our support for Libya in this unequal, unjust and dangerous conflict."

occupation of the West Bank and Gaza but has stopped short of advocating annexation.

If Likud supported Tzviya's proposal it would likely rupture the fragile partnership with Peres' Labour Party which supports a "territorial compromise" in return for peace, according to AP.

Tzviya's parliament member Yuval Ne'eman accused Peres of "leaving a decision over the future of these territories up to Jordan, and the Palestine Liberation Organisation."

Left-wing critics of Peres' government called on Israel and the United States to renew a Mideast peace momentum by recognising the PLO or risk renewed warfare in the region.

Peres rejected the criticism in a 30-minute speech that focused on King Hussein's speech of Feb. 19.

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His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday receives representatives of citizens from the occupied territories who called on him to pledge their support for the King and the Hashemite throne (Petra photo)

7 injured in blast near 'Ain Al Hilweh

SIDON, Lebanon (Agencies) — A car packed with TNT exploded at the entrance of the teeming 'Ain Al Hilweh Palestinian refugee camp in this southern port city Wednesday, killing the driver, witnesses quoted by AP said.

The explosion wounded four schoolchildren and three other people, hospital sources told Reuters.

The blast rocked the northern entrance to the camp on the outskirts of Sidon as 5,000 Palestinians were about to set out for the city to join a demonstration.

Lebanese security sources were quoted by Reuters as saying they believed the car bomb may have been destined for central Sidon but was turned away by militiamen who sealed all roads leading to the city.

The sources said 125 kilograms of explosives were packed into a blue Peugeot Sedan but only a third detonated, gouging a crater half a metre deep in the road.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility. 'Ain Al Hilweh is the largest Palestinian camp in Lebanon overflowing with more than 50,000 people.

Palestinian women gathered at a school just outside the camp where the four children were hurt. "Why are they doing this to us, what have we done wrong?" one sobbed.

Hussein Hussein, a guard at the camp's main entrance, said: "I saw the driver trying to get out of the car. He struggled with the door, then the whole car exploded with him inside."

It exploded near a government-run hospital and a school. The camp, flattened in Israel's 1982 invasion, houses 26,000 U.N.-registered refugees.

The bomb exploded at 9:50 a.m., 10 minutes before hundreds of Palestinians were scheduled to assemble at the entrance to stage a demonstration to mark the 11th anniversary of the assassination of Marouf Saad, Sidon's former member of parliament, police said.

Brass bands played and scouts waved banners as heavily-armed Sunni fighters of the Popular Liberation Army (PLA) led by Mr. Saad's 34-year-old son Mustafa patrolled the streets.

Pro-Syrian factions share control of 'Ain Al Hilweh with the Fateh group of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"It would have been a bloodbath if the explosion occurred at the 10 a.m. demonstration date," said a police spokesman.

Six houses, a pharmacy and four cars were destroyed in the blast on the southern fringe of Sidon, provincial capital of South Lebanon, 40 kilometres south of Beirut.

Angry young Palestinians gathered at the gate after the explosion.

"Israel is our enemy," one man shouted. "Who else could have done this?"

Egyptian security police riot; 15 killed, 300 hurt

Indefinite curfew imposed on Cairo

CAIRO (Agencies) — Fifteen Egyptians were killed and more than 300 wounded in riots by thousands of security police which erupted Tuesday night, police sources said Wednesday.

Authorities clamped a curfew on Cairo and troops and tanks moved in to quell the rioting. An Interior Ministry official said many rioters had been arrested, but gave no numbers.

Police sources told Reuters 64 civilians were among the wounded and at least 300 men were taken to a military hospital. It was not clear if they were army troops or security police.

Army troops clashed with riotous security forces in Cairo and three other cities after the night-long police rampage in the shadow of the Great Pyramids.

Tanks and armoured personnel carriers patrolled the largely deserted streets of this normally bustling city after Cairo Radio announced an indefinite curfew from 4 p.m. as clashes erupted throughout the city.

Crowds of ordinary Egyptians, apparently angry over rising prices and the country's deteriorating economy, joined the riotous central security troops in looting shops, setting fire to three luxury hotels and several nightclubs and storming a prison south of the capital where Islamic fundamentalists were held.

President Hosni Mubarak, facing the most serious domestic threat of his four-year tenure, blamed the violence on a "deviant minority" within the 120,000-man central security force who spread rumours that the term of enlistment for conscripts was being extended by one year.

"This is a treacherous blow to the march of this people struggling for its livelihood and its future," Mr. Mubarak said in a statement to the nation. "This happened at a time when Egypt was making every effort to develop and build on every field and to confront the difficult economic conditions Egypt is going through."

The trouble started Tuesday night when conscripts from the central security force camp located near the three Great Pyramids at the western edge of Cairo went on a rampage after hearing rumours of their service extension to four years.

Mr. Mubarak said there were also clashes between the army and central security troops in the southern cities of Assiut and Sohag as well as in the Suez Canal city of Ismailia.

The president said the rioters in Cairo killed an undisclosed number of guards around hotels, shops and nightclubs which they attacked. He made no mention of casualties in provincial cities.

Police also said the rioters stormed Torsh Prison, one of Cairo's biggest jails, and freed most of the convicts. They refused to say how many were released.

Witnesses earlier told Reuters one man shot dead in fighting between troops and police on the road to Ismailia, northeast of Cairo.

Reporters saw eight tanks and scores of armoured vehicles mounted with machine-guns patrolling Maadi and some 20 security police sitting cross-legged under armed guard by army troops.

Women describes Cairo riots as 'nightmare', page 2

Supertanker hit near Kharg

BAHRAIN (R) — The Liberation-flag supertanker Medusa was hit by a missile on Wednesday near the main Iranian oil terminal at Kharg Island, shipping sources in the Gulf said. They said the ship, capable of carrying more than 330,000 tonnes of crude oil, was probably in ballast when it was struck by an Iraqi missile in the bows. There were no casualties reported among the Korean crew, but the sources had no word on the ship's position at the time of the attack. The ship, on an Iranian oil shuttle between Kharg and Sirri Island further south, is expected at Sirri on Thursday. The ship was hit by Iraqi jets while on the shuttle last October. In London, Lloyd's shipping intelligence reported the 239,604 deadweight tonnage oil tanker Polikon was attacked near Kharg on Sunday or Monday. The sources said this was probably the ship reported by Iran on Monday to have been hit by a missile fired from an Iraqi helicopter.

Iraqi jets resume attacks on Fao

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraqi warplanes resumed intensive raids on Tuesday in support of ground forces battling to drive Iranian troops from the southern Iraqi port of Fao at the head of the Gulf, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said.

Bad weather had almost totally grounded them in the previous 48 hours and hampered ground action aimed at retaking Fao, parts of which the Iraqis occupied shortly after they opened a major Gulf war offensive on Feb. 9.

Iraq's media again made no mention of Iran's claim to have launched a cross-border thrust in the northern Kurdish mountains at two nights ago.

Tuesday's Iraqi war communiqués did not report any Iraqi air action but said three army columns in the south fortified recaptured positions and repelled repeated Iranian attempts to retake them.

Al Thawra, newspaper of Iraq's ruling Baath Party, said the central and southern columns were expected to join up soon and "guarantee the destruction of all Iranian troops left on the Fao Peninsula."

Al Thawra reporters said Iranian troops were trying desperately to stop the columns meeting.

The daily Al Iraq quoted a field commander as saying the complete recapture of the Fao region by the central and southern columns was expected soon and would put the enemy "in a critical, deadly position."

Iraq's air force commander, Air Marshal Hameed Shaaban, said on Tuesday Iraqi forces were waging a "final and decisive" battle on

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Iraq expands Gulf 'exclusion zone,' protects Kuwaiti coast, page 2

Aquino promises reforms as Marcos flies into exile

King sends good wishes to Aquino

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein has sent a cable to the new president of the Philippines, Mrs. Corazon Aquino, congratulating her on being elected as president.

In his cable, the King expressed hope that friendly ties between Jordan and the Philippines would be strengthened further to benefit the peoples of the two countries.

He also wished the new president success in the leadership of her country and further progress and prosperity for the Philippines.

to seize the presidential palace.

Mrs. Aquino, who has renounced use of the palace as a symbol of her rejection of the extravagance of the Marcos years, struck a political balance in her first acts in office. She retained Mr. Marcos' central bank governor as well as his defence minister and promised to respect the U.S. bases agreement while her vice-president offered amnesty to Communist guerrillas.

Mrs. Aquino, Asia's first woman president, made reconciliation the keynote of her news conference, saying her first priority was to help the poor. But she promised quick fixes.

Her accession to power was almost universally welcomed abroad, although Soviet reaction was still reserved. Pope John Paul urged unity on the Philippines, 90

per cent of whom belong to the Roman Catholic Church which was staunchly behind Mrs. Aquino throughout her election campaign. (World welcomes Aquino, page 9)

In the United States, where administration officials privately took credit for exerting unrelenting pressure on Mr. Marcos to quit office peacefully after a Feb. 7 presidential election victory widely denounced as fraudulent, congressmen predicted an early injection of aid for the Philippines.

Salvador Laurel, Mrs. Aquino's vice-president, prime minister and foreign minister, went on American television to plead for more financial aid "now that democracy has been restored."

He said his country considered the United States its closest friend.

While Manila looks to Washington for political support and political and military aid, the United States has major security concerns in the Philippines, where there is a growing Communist insurgency and varying degrees of hostility to the presence of the two biggest U.S. overseas military bases.

Mr. Laurel offered an amnesty to all political offenders, including Communist guerrillas. Mrs. Aquino at her news conference sidestepped questions whether she would legalise the Communist

(Continued on page 3)

Cruel destiny led Aquino to presidency; Marcos, the president who fled in a hurry; Laurel — a man with political background, page 4

Iraq expands Gulf 'exclusion zone,' protects Kuwaiti coast

SHATT AL-ARAB, Iraq (AP) — Iraq said Wednesday it was expanding the "exclusion zone" of military operations around Iran's ports on the Gulf waters, announcing its warships were protecting the Kuwaiti coast against the eventuality of Iranian attacks.

"Our navy prevents any (commercial) vessel from sailing within 70 miles from the Iranian coast" in the north eastern sector of the Gulf waters, said Rear Admiral Abed Mohammad Abdullah, commander of the Iraqi Navy and coastal defence.

"Our navy is patrolling the Gulf along the Kuwaiti coast," he told reporters. "Any (Iranian) threat in this direction (Kuwait) is a threat to Iraq and we will deal with it properly. This is our duty and these are our combat assignments."

Adm. Abdullah warned that "any Iranian Navy vessel that tries to approach this area should be dealt with before it reaches the Kuwaiti coast."

Adm. Abdullah was talking to reporters at his command headquarters in the palm groves on the Western bank of the Shatt Al Arab waterway.

The exact location of Iraqi command posts cannot be revealed, in line with military regulations applied after Iran launched its Feb. 9 invasion of the southern Iraqi Fao Peninsula.

Iraq, early in 1984, said it was

imposing a blockade on Iran's Kharg Island oil export terminal and other ports within a 50-mile radius defined as an exclusion zone of military operations.

Iraqi warplanes have since been raiding oil tankers and bulk carriers sailing to and from these Iranian facilities, with the avowed aim of choking off Iran's economy and blocking its oil exports.

Adm. Abdullah's remarks obviously showed that Iraq was out to broaden the scope of the exclusion zone by 20 miles in radius.

Adm. Abdullah, talking to reporters, said the Iraqi Navy was "dominating" the north eastern sector of the Gulf waters.

He said that his navy units have "totally succeeded in blocking sea-borne reinforcements and supplies" that Iran has been trying to send to its estimated 50,000 troops who occupy the Iraqi oil-port of Fao and its environs in the south easternmost corner of the Arab country.

"Not a single Iranian vessel," according to Adm. Abdullah, has succeeded in "penetrating our blockade to reinforce the Iranian troops in the Fao Peninsula since

Feb. 10."

The Iranians, according to the Iraqi commander who graduated from navy academies in Egypt and India, have been sending "small boats" to reinforce their troops in the Fao Peninsula across Shatt Al Arab.

"Our navy operates generally in the Gulf waters and not in the Shatt Al Arab waterway," he clarified.

Such small boats provide "limited reinforcements which are not sufficient to support a major battle like the one currently underway in the Fao Peninsula," he said.

He stressed that Iranian invaders currently do not have any bridges connecting their mainland on the eastern bank of Shatt Al Arab with their troops in the Fao Peninsula along the western Iraqi bank of the estuary.

The last bridge which the Iranians had between the southern Iranian Abadan oil centre and the Cape Bisheh south of Fao was "demolished" by the Iraqi Navy last week, Adm. Abdullah said.

He pledged that "we (the navy) and our comrades in the air force will destroy any bridge the Iranians might try to erect across Shatt Al Arab."

Iraqi forces in the Fao Peninsula, according to Adm. Abdullah, were "continuing" a three-pronged advance to liberate the area.

"The Iraqi combat tactics in the Fao Peninsula are characterised

with caution, because we are keen on the safety of our soldiers. The tactics followed so far comprise unprecedented bombing (of the Iranian-occupied sector) until the field command decides that the time is ripe to storm Fao," he said.

Adm. Abdullah, who refused to disclose the size of his navy, said Iraqi missile boats were "coordinating" the bombardment of the Iranian targets with the Iraqi ground forces.

"We are also prepared to carry out sea-borne landings of troops on the Fao coast, but we haven't received such orders," he said.

The Iraqi Navy in 18 days has knocked out 32 Iranian missile boats and reinforcement ships in the north eastern sector of the Gulf in addition to demolishing the Abadan oil terminal, the downing of three Iranian F-5 U.S.-made jet fighters and the knocking out of a 246,000-ton oil tanker near the Kharg terminal, Adm. Abdullah told reporters.

Gulf-based marine salvage and shipping executives said these attack reports could not be independently verified.

The Iraqi Navy, since the outbreak of the Gulf War, has knocked out 40 per cent of Iran's navy which then comprised 32 combat vessels, according to Adm. Abdullah.

He added that the Iraqi Navy did not sustain any casualties or damage in the ongoing confrontation.

Israel said to be China's largest arms supplier

LONDON (AP) — Israel is now the world's largest supplier of arms to China, says a British arms marketing chief quoted by the London Daily Telegraph.

The newspaper in a report Tuesday quoted George Connor of Mycon Marketing Services as saying in an address to a London conference this week that in 1985 Israel sold \$3 billion (\$4.47 billion) worth of military equipment to China.

He was quoted as saying that Israel's sales of arms to China were a hundred times greater than those of Britain in 1985 and that Britain also lagged far behind the United States, France, Italy and West Germany in this field.

The report by Desmond Western of the paper's defence staff said that China's modernisation plan for its armed forces called for purchases of between \$140 billion and \$160 billion on new equipment.

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EC trying 'quiet diplomacy' in Mideast

THE HAGUE (R) — The European Community (EC) is responding to appeals from the Middle East to become involved in the faltering peace process, is undertaking some "quiet diplomacy" to see if it can help.

The Dutch, current holders of the rotating Community presidency, were asked at a meeting of EC foreign ministers here Tuesday to make contact with parties to the conflict.

"We want to see whether and in what way Europe could contribute to a breakthrough," said the Dutch Foreign Minister, Hans Van Den Broek.

He told reporters there was stalemate after the suspension last week of talks between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Org-

anisation (PLO) on possible joint participation in an international peace conference.

Mr. Van Den Broek and his ministry will now try to find out where the various parties stand and if the stalemate can be broken. Their contacts would include talks with the PLO, the minister said.

It was not an initiative, he added, hoping to restrain expectations. "We are thinking about quiet diplomacy."

The move follows a call by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to West European countries to play a greater role in the region, and a European tour by Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres in which he repeatedly stressed to his hosts that they could contribute to

peace. Tuesday's decision appeared to satisfy both the EC members who feared a formal, high-profile initiative would be ineffective or even damaging and those who favoured direct involvement in the peace process.

Mr. Van Den Broek has made no secret of his wish for a more active EC role.

In the last six weeks he has seen Peres, King Hussein, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State for Middle East Affairs Richard Murphy and Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmad Abdul Meguid.

The new round of contacts will be at ministerial or diplomatic level, he said Tuesday, adding: "It is not excluded that I will travel to the Middle East."

U.S. says Israeli agreement was needed for proposal to PLO

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The State Department has said Israeli agreement would have been needed to implement a plan to have the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) attend an international conference on the Middle East.

Efforts to set up such a conference collapsed this month amid disagreement between the PLO and Jordan.

The State Department acknowledged last week that the United States was ready to accept the PLO at an international conference as part of a proposed package to get Arab-Israeli peace negotiations going.

If the package could have been constructed, "it goes without saying that it would not have been implemented without agreement to the full package by all sides," State Department spokesman Bernard Kalb told reporters.

Officials said "all sides" would have included Israel, which has consistently refused to have any

dealings with the PLO.

Mr. Kalb added: "Now that the PLO has failed the King's test, there is no package and this isolated question is moot."

Washington and King Hussein blamed the collapse of the peace effort on the PLO's failure to accept key United Nations resolutions.

During his address, King Hussein declared: "When it is clearly on the public record that the PLO has accepted Resolutions 242 and 338, is prepared to negotiate peace with Israel and has renounced terrorism, the United States accepts the fact that an invitation will be issued to the PLO to attend an international conference."

"King Hussein accurately quoted the position we conveyed to him regarding this issue," Mr. Kalb said. "However, that quotation dealt with only one of many aspects of that position as we attempted to help construct a package that would facilitate direct

negotiations between Israel and a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation looking toward the establishment of peace between Israel and all its Arab neighbours."

"As is always the case in such situations, no single issue can be satisfactorily addressed without reference to the full package of which it is a part," the spokesman continued. "Moreover, if that package could have been constructed, it goes without saying that it would not have been implemented without agreement to the full package by all sides."

"For the record, let me repeat the longstanding U.S. position regarding the PLO: We will not recognise or negotiate with the PLO so long as the PLO does not recognise Israel's right to exist and does not accept Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. And we have made it clear that those who refuse to renounce violence and terrorism have no place at the negotiating table," the spokesman concluded.

Turkish trade unionists arrested after rally

ANKARA (R) — Police in the Aegean port city of Izmir have charged 77 people with using unapproved slogans at a big trade union rally there last Saturday.

Turkish newspapers said Wednesday.

They said 63 were still being held and the rest had been provisionally freed.

Meanwhile the editor-in-chief and a columnist of Turkey's only English-language newspaper were acquitted Wednesday on a charge of defaming the country's 1980-83 military rulers, Anatolian

News Agency said.

Imur Cevik and Oktay Balamir were indicted over a column written by Balamir in the Turkish Daily News of Sept. 30 last which said Turkey's speed of development had been slowed down over the last five years.

The agency said the prosecutor sought their acquittal after finding there was no direct connection between Balamir's statement and activities of the National Security Council, the name given to the junta which ruled after a coup in 1980.

The pair had denied the charge. Legislation passed in 1983 makes it illegal to defame the National Security Council. Cevik and Balamir could have been jailed for up to two years if convicted.

Balamir told Reuters the acquittals also covered a charge of praising former Prime Minister Süleyman Demirel, who was toppled by the coup. To praise pre-coup leaders is banned under the same legislation.

Prosecutors in the Turkish legal system often seek the acquittal of defendants after they have heard the evidence.

Woman describes Cairo riots as 'nightmare'

CAIRO (Agencies) — Elke Gross's pleasure trip to a hotel at the foot of the great Pyramids turned into a nightmare when she found herself in the middle of rioting by renegade security forces which by Wednesday spread in the city.

Mrs. Gross, a West German resident of Cairo, said mutinous members of the Central Security Forces in their distinctive black uniforms had stormed into the lobby of the luxurious Mena House Oberoi Hotel late Tuesday night.

"It was so awful, they had big sticks and stones and they destroyed the lobby, they also burned up nearly all the cars in the parking lot," Mrs. Gross said in a telephone interview.

She said she had been going to meet a friend who was a tour guide at the hotel.

"I had just entered the hotel and asked the receptionist where

the cafeteria was. Then the lights went off, and I could hear a lot of noise. When it was over and I came back down to the lobby, the receptionist was in tears and the lobby was a complete mess," Mrs. Gross added.

As she spoke by telephone from her residence in the southern suburb of Maadi, the sound of automatic gunfire could be heard in the background.

"As I was trying to leave, some people told me to take the Pyramid road. But it was chaotic, it seemed like the whole street was on fire. Troops were looting, burning and shooting. As I was passing by a gas station, it blew up, it was very bad," Mrs. Gross said.

An official of the hotel said an estimated 700 tourists remained stranded at the hotel, some of them camping in the car park.

Two nearby hotels, the Jolie Ville and the Holiday Inn were very badly damaged after they had

been looted by the mutineers. A Swiss diplomat said most of the tourists in the two hotels had escaped and were hiding in nearby private residences. He said he had heard of no casualties.

A young British businessman Wednesday told of being robbed by the mutinous Egyptian security police.

"They got all our money at gunpoint," said Andrew Jeffs, 21, after he and two other Britons fled the blazing hotel and walked all night to reach the safety of the British embassy.

Jeffs, from Ruislip, west of London, told Reuters he saw tanks moving in and firing at mutineers, but did not see anyone hit. He said he was in his room at the Jolie Ville Hotel Tuesday night when the power went off and he heard shouting and breaking glass.

He tried to get to the reception area but was advised by staff to go to the back of the multi-story

hotel, set amid lush surroundings close to the ancient pyramids and Sphinx, Cairo's biggest tourist attractions.

"The rioters then broke into the hotel, throwing stones at everything, and set fire to the reception area," Jeffs said. "We saw the flames from the back of the hotel."

He said he and two friends jumped over a wall and climbed to the roof of a nearby house. They ventured back to the hotel after the rioters left.

He went up to his room on the third floor to collect his belongings when the rioters, all in black or white uniforms, returned and started looting. Jeffs said they began searching the rooms and robbed him and his friends at gunpoint.

But one of the gunmen helped the three Britons find their way out of Giza amid the sounds of shooting, he said.

TV & RADIO	
JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 77311-19	
MAIN CHANNEL	
16:00	Korona
16:30	Cartoons
16:55	Children's Programmes
17:00	Webster
18:15	Paul Daniels Show
19:00	Local Contests programme
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	A report of His Majesty King Hussein's nation-wide address
FOREIGN CHANNEL	
16:00	Projection drives (French)
16:30	News in French
16:55	Beverly Hills
17:00	News in Hebrew
17:30	Agnes of God
18:00	A Mystery of Bay Bible
18:30	News in Arabic
18:55	Good Night and God Bless
19:00	Magical Zero One
19:10	Return to Eden
19:30	News in English
19:55	Feature Film: Calamity Jane and Sam Bass
RADIO JORDAN 855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM & partly on 95.60 KHz. SW Tel: 77411-19	
07:00	Light Music
07:30	Newsweek
08:00	Morning Show
08:30	News Summary
09:00	Morning Show
10:00	Pop Session
10:30	News Summary
11:00	Pop Session Cont.
11:30	News Summary
12:00	Pop Session
12:30	News Bulletin
13:00	Instrumentals
13:30	Talking Points
14:00	Concert Hour
14:30	News Summary
15:00	Instrumentals
15:30	Old Favourites
16:00	25 Years of Rock
16:30	News Summary
17:00	Special Feature
17:30	From the Holy Koran
18:00	Newsweek
18:30	Date with a Star
19:00	Evening Show

WHAT'S GOING ON	
TODAY'S EVENTS	
EXHIBITIONS	
* An art exhibition by Hassan Agba at the Gallery of the Housing Bank complex (until March 6)	
* An art exhibition by Youssef Badawi at the Spanish Cultural Centre (until Feb. 28)	
* An exhibition of plastic arts at Yarmouk University (until Feb. 27)	
* An art exhibition by Serid Nuzbeh at the Jordan National Gallery (until March 2)	
* Engineering week at the Faculty of Engineering, University of Jordan.	
* French exhibition entitled "Les cinéastes Français" at the French Cultural Centre (until Feb. 27)	
* An exhibition of selected works by Jordanian and Foreign Contemporary artists at the Arts Gallery, Jabal Amman, First Circle (until March 11)	
CULTURAL CENTRES	
Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6610267	
American Centre Tel. 64371	
British Council Tel. 636147-8	
French Cultural Centre Tel. 637009	
German Institute Tel. 641923	
Soviet Cultural Centre Tel. 644203	
Spanish Cultural Centre Tel. 624049	
Turkish Cultural Centre Tel. 639777	
Hays Arts Centre Tel. 667181	
Jordan Youth City Tel. 667181	
Y.W.C.A. Tel. 664251	
Amman Municipal Library Tel. 636111	
University of Jordan Library Tel. 843535	
MUSEUMS	
Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 1000 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m.	
PRAYER TIMES	
06:51	Fajr
06:54	(Sunrise) Duha
11:59	Dhuhr
15:00	'Asr
17:26	Maghrib
18:49	Isha

FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Alia information department at the Queen Alia International Airport tel. (02) 5200-5, where it should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS	
09:00	Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
09:05	Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:10	Amman (RJ)
09:15	Cairo (RJ)
09:20	Jeddah (RJ)
09:25	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
09:30	Dhahran, Riyadh (RJ)
09:35	Kuwait, Dhahran (RJ)
09:40	Kuwait (RJ)
09:45	Istanbul, Ankara (RJ)
09:50	Istanbul, Beirut, Larnaca (RJ)
10:00	Rio de Janeiro, Lisbon (RJ)
10:05	Baghdad (RJ)
10:10	Cairo (RJ)
10:15	London, Belgrade (RJ)
10:20	Amman (RJ)
10:25	Zurich, Larnaca (RJ)
10:30	Cairo (RJ)
10:35	Baghdad (RJ)

Jordanian vets express support for Iraq

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Vets Association has voiced its support for Iraq in its endeavours to repel aggression and defend Iraqi territory. A cable sent by the association's president, Dr. Abdul Fattah Al Kailani, to his Iraqi counterpart expressed Jordan's pride in Iraq's efforts and successes in the battlefield and also deplored Tehran's persistence in pursuing aggression on Arab territory. The cable also urged all Arab states to honour their commitments towards Iraq to help it repel the aggressors.

The Jordan National Red Crescent Society earlier placed its resources and capabilities at the disposal of the Iraqi Red Crescent Society. The pledge came in a cable sent to Dr. Ibrahim Nouri, president of the Iraqi society, by his Jordanian counterpart Dr. Ahmad Abu Qoura.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Lawzi receives Kuwaiti journalist

AMMAN (J.T.) — Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi Wednesday received the editor-in-chief of the Kuwaiti newspaper Al Siassa, Mr. Ahmad Al Jarallah. Mr. Jarallah, a prominent journalist in the Arab World, Monday interviewed His Majesty King Hussein. Deputy Speaker of the Upper House Hikmat Al Masri attended the meeting.

RSS president meets with Swiss envoy

AMMAN (Petra) — Royal Scientific Society (RSS) President Fakhri Al Daghestani Wednesday received Swiss Ambassador to Jordan Andre Louis. The Swiss envoy was briefed on the activities of the society, particularly joint projects being implemented in cooperation with the Swiss company, Avia. The Swiss government supports the RSS by providing the necessary equipment and Swiss experts for the departments of mechanical engineering, chemistry and mechanical engineering.

Egyptian delegation visits Yarmouk

IRBID (Petra) — The President of the University of Al Menia in Egypt and his accompanying delegation Wednesday conferred with Dr. Marwan Kamal, Yarmouk University's acting president. The visitors were briefed on the university's development, programs and courses. Dr. Kamal said that Yarmouk University is willing to cooperate with other Arab universities in cultural and educational affairs. He also presented medals to the members of the delegation.

Islamic centre organises charity bazaar

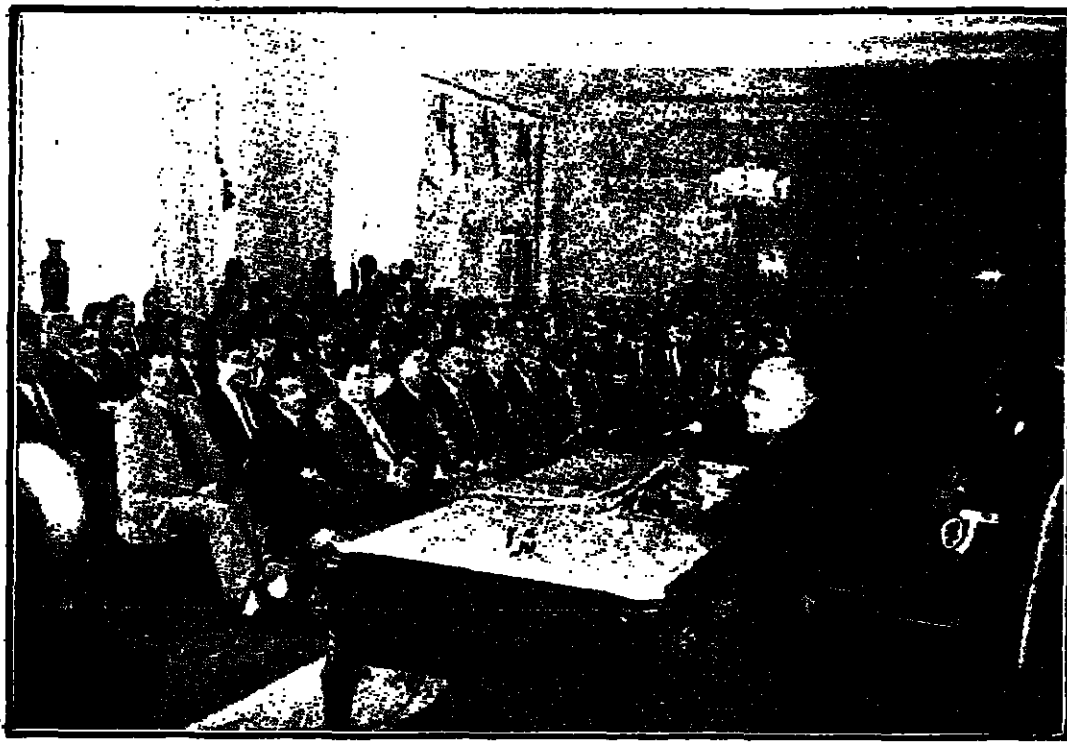
AMMAN (Petra) — The Islamic Cultural Centre for women will hold its annual charity bazaar at its headquarters on Jabal Lwadh on March 15. The week-long bazaar will be opened by Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat and the proceeds will benefit needy people and orphans.

TCC opens seminar on laser beams

AMMAN (J.T.) — The 10th seminar on the use of laser beams in communications via fibreglass cables opened Wednesday to discuss the implementation of this technology in the telecommunications Corporation's (TCC) 1986-1990 development plan. The TCC is organising the seminar which is attended by a number of Italian companies working in this field, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, reported without mentioning the companies' names, the place where the seminar is being held nor its duration.

Labour team discusses Arab conference

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian delegation, which will attend the Arab labour conference due to open in Baghdad on March 14, met at the Ministry of Labour and Social Development Wednesday to discuss the main topics to be taken up by the conference. The delegation which groups representatives of the ministry, Jordanian employers and workers, decided to coordinate their stands and they agreed on subjects they would raise at the conference.



His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday addresses representatives from both the East and West Banks of Jordan, who flocked at the Royal Court to voice their support for the King's policies (Petra photo).

NRA continues oil prospecting programme

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian government is currently making an assessment of bids submitted by several major world oil companies to help prospect for oil in Jordan and will conclude contracts that will safeguard national interests, Mr. Yousef Al Nimri, director general of the Natural Resources Authority (NRA) was quoted as saying in Amman Wednesday.

He said in a statement to Sawt Al Sha'ab local Arabic daily that prospecting for oil is costly and, though local teams supervised by the NRA are going ahead with the set programme, foreign experts are welcome to join in.

NRA teams will carry on with their programme to search for oil and they will move out of the Azraq region to try other potential regions, Mr. Nimri added.

At present, Mr. Nimri added, three oil rigs are being used in oil prospecting operations at Hamzeh fields and two of these are expected to be moved to some other areas. He said that initial results from the prospecting programmes are "encouraging".

Upon instructions from the government, the NRA is now focusing its attention on feasibility studies to explore the possibility of exploiting oil shale as soon as possible, and the NRA has concluded contracts with West German and Chinese firms to provide expertise and help Jordan in this endeavour, Mr. Nimri said.

During 1986, he continued, the NRA will continue to prospect for oil but will also make other studies on oil shale and other minerals. In order to carry out its programmes, he said, the NRA will set up new seismological station to raise the total number to 28.

Committee reviews plans for second expatriates' meeting

AMMAN (J.T.) — A general meeting was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Wednesday to discuss arrangements for holding the second Jordanian expatriates conference in Amman during the coming summer. The go-ahead for the conference had earlier been given by the cabinet and an ad hoc committee was formed to make the arrangements.

The meeting Wednesday discussed recommendations passed by the first conference held in

Amman in July 1985 and also reviewed proposals passed on to a number of government departments on matters pertaining to arrangements for making the conference a success.

The committee heard the views of several Jordanian ambassadors accredited to countries grouped in the Gulf Cooperation Council where most Jordanian expatriates are presently employed and took note of their ideas about an agenda for the coming conference.

Agricultural engineers prepare to hold board elections

AMMAN (J.T.) — Agricultural engineers Samir Hubushneh, Ghaleb Abu Arabi and Tarek Al Tel have nominated themselves for the post of president of the Jordanian Agricultural Engineers Association (JAEA), which will hold elections on March 14 or March 28, the local Arabic daily newspaper Al Ra'i reported Wednesday.

The report also said that Mr.

Subhi Fahmawi and Mr. Issam Nasr have nominated themselves for the position of vice president. Mr. Fahmawi belongs to Mr. Abu Arabi's bloc, while Mr. Nasr is from Mr. Tel's bloc.

The association has called on all the 2,425 agricultural engineers, who are registered as members in the association, to meet at the Professional Associations Complex in Shmeisani on March 14.

Jordan, Egypt arrange trip for envoys via land-sea link

AMMAN (J.T.) — Egypt and Jordan will jointly sponsor a trip for ambassadors accredited to Jordan to Sinai in Egypt via the land-sea route linking Aqaba with the port of Nuweiba in Sinai, according to an announcement here Wednesday.

The announcement said that the trip, organised by the Egyptian and Jordanian tourism authorities, is designed to acquaint the ambassadors with services offered to passengers and travellers between the two ports via the land-sea route, opened in April 1985, and facilities for transporting goods.

The ambassadors accompanied by journalists from both countries, will leave Aqaba for Sinai by the end of the week, according to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra.

Egyptian Ambassador to Jordan Ehab Wahbeh and officials from the Tourism Authority and the Jordan National Shipping Lines Company will also go on the trip, expected to last three days.

W.Bank, Gazan representatives express total support for King

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Crowds of people representing townships in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip Wednesday gathered at the Royal Palace in support of His Majesty King Hussein's recent decision to terminate political coordination with the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Dignitaries and representatives of towns in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank towns of Nablus, Jayyous, Baga Al Hatab, Seir and other Palestinian villages hailed the King's initiative and pledged to back his initiatives in the search for peace.

In a series of interviews with the Jordan Times, several people in the crowd spoke of the necessity for a positive initiative to secure peace before it is too late. Mr. Abdul Fattah Juma'a, a driver from Gaza, said: "All the Palestinians in the occupied territories support King Hussein in his relentless endeavours to arrive at a negotiated settlement to the Palestinian question."

Regarding the situation in the occupied territories, Mr. Juma'a said that it is deteriorating from bad to worse in the absence of a settlement. "Our children are being detained in prisons and the economic situation is on the brink of collapse," he said, adding that the King is the "beacon of hope as

we need firm decisions."

Referring to the status of people from Gaza, Mr. Juma'a stressed that Gazans should be treated equally and on a par with people from West Bank.

Mr. Ahmad Hussein Najem, also from Gaza, hailed the King and said: "We have been hearing speeches by Arab leaders for the past 40 years but none of them was as comprehensive, frank and as straight to the point as that recently made by the King. As the King said, he has devoted himself to the Palestinian cause and we all support him."

Sheikh Suleiman Abdullah, a Gazan dignitary, said: "The King is the only one we trust to save our occupied land and to restore peace in the region." Sheikh Abdullah, however, said he and other Gazans had requested that Jordanian passports be issued to Gazans instead of temporary ones and that they had also asked for the same status as Palestinians of the West Bank.

Mohammad Ahmad Hussein,

Sheikh Ali Ahmad and Rizk Mohammad agreed that Palestine and the holy shrines in Jerusalem are sacred and said that the King is the only person capable of restoring them. They also spoke of the equality and kinship between the two peoples on both banks of Jordan.

Sheikh Mahmoud Hassan Omar said that he supports the King in any step he takes for the benefit of the Palestinian cause. Sheikh Omar spoke of Gazans living in Amman and said they need to contribute more to the community. "We want our children to join the armed forces as conscripts and we want to be treated on the same footing as the people of the West Bank residing in Jordan as we have lived all our lives here. We need to be issued with Jordanian passports, especially our children studying abroad, so that we do not have to obtain visas everytime we visit the Kingdom," Sheikh Omar stressed.

The Gaza Strip is administratively affiliated to Egypt and was under Egyptian rule before Israeli occupation in 1967. The West Bank has constitutional unity with Jordan and people from the West Bank have been subject to Jordanian laws since 1950.

Khalidoun Mohammad Omari, a student from Irbid who has Gazan relatives and Khaled Tu'eimeh hailed the speech and said that it dealt with the people's aspirations.

King: Jordan will remain faithful to Palestinian cause

(Continued from page 1)

through this international conference and the Resolutions 242 and 338 and we have failed to continue in our joint endeavours with the PLO which refuses to go ahead. The question now is: Do you support the PLO in its stand in rejecting Resolutions 242 and 338 and do we have to reassess our positions and our stands? It is up to you to decide. We are proud of the Palestinian people who are steadfast on their land and holding on to it with all their power and will help them extend all possible help to them.

"It has been said that my announcement was untimely in view of the on-going Iran-Iraq war, but I say that we have been confronted with danger on all sides. We will continue to support and help Iraq because the Iranian danger threatens all of us from the east, but at the same time we have to exert all our efforts to fend off our enemy's plans and plots on the west. Therefore, it is incumbent on us all to do the impossible to save our land and holy places from our enemy."

Representatives of the delegations, including Parliament member Edward Khamis from Bethlehem constituency, made speeches expressing support for the King and his leadership and his endeavours to save the Arab land and reestablish justice.

In a speech to delegations representing the occupied town of Hebron Tuesday, King Hussein revealed that the PLO had pledged in an official written document to one of the superpowers in 1977 that it accepts Resolutions 242 and 338.

He said he was surprised to see the PLO leadership retreat from its pledge and commitment and withdrew its approval of the two resolutions.

"We have coordinated our positions with the PLO leadership and we have reached a stage where by the PLO will attend the proposed international conference and work side by side with a Jordanian delegation," the King said.

He said: "As a starting point we assumed that the PLO will keep its promise and reaffirm its recognition of 242 and 338 because the international conference should be called for the implementation of the resolutions." Any negotiations with the Israeli government, the King said, would have to be through the international conference, held under United Nations auspices.

"The reason for the termination of political coordination with the PLO leadership is therefore obvious and in my speech to the nation I presented all the facts in a frank manner."

Referring to the question of self-determination for the Palestinian people, the King said that the Jordanian and Palestinian people can set up a confederation and no other party, not even the superpowers or Israel, can claim

the right to interfere in this affair.

He said he will continue to work for the achievement of peace based on justice and "if the doors now open to us will lead to good results and help achieve our aspirations we will go ahead and insist that peace can only be achieved with a total Israeli withdrawal from Arab land and the reestablishment of the rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland."

"In our dealings with the PLO leadership my government and I have found that we could no longer coordinate with them but we will continue to seek firm commitment and on the part of the Palestinian people and we should bear in mind that our enemy is going ahead with plans in our occupied land and therefore every possible action should be taken to save the Arab people and liberate their land from occupation," he said.

The Royal Court announced Wednesday that more cables of support were sent to King Hussein from different public sectors and also from representatives of the Jordanian community in Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates.

The cables voiced total backing for the King's endeavours to regain Palestinian people's rights and to liberate Arab lands.

They also expressed allegiance to the Hashemite throne and renewed pledges of further cohesion and unity among the two peoples grouped into one family.

Australian project makes its mark on fodder production, ley farming

By Josephine Zanabiri
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — With similar climates and agricultural problems, it was inevitable that Jordan should seek Australian expertise. Mr. Chris Heyesen head of the consultant team of agricultural experts says: "Australia is regarded as amongst world leaders in the scientific study of non-irrigated dry land farming. In South Australia, we produce more wheat crops and livestock per hectare than anywhere else in the world with a similar climate."

Known in Jordan as the Jordanian Australian Dry Land Farming Project, the programme was funded by the Federal Australian Government through A.D.A.B., the Australian Development Assistance Bureau. The personnel and expertise for the exercise have been seconded from Sagric, an agricultural consultancy company established by the South Australian State Government. Phase one was financed to the tune of about \$Aus. 1.5 million. Phase two will cost over \$Aus. 2 million. The Australian contribution covers salaries, technical backing and the intellectual under planning for the project. Included in the package are two scholarships to Australian universities — one is specified for a student of the University of Jordan, the other for an employee at the Ministry of Agriculture. The Jordanian government is also making a contribution and provides the organisation's infrastructure through the Jordan Co-operative Organisation's (JCO) machinery stations.

"The project was initiated in the late seventies," continues Mr. Heyesen, "after His Majesty King Hussein's visit to Australia." The two countries signed an agricultural aid accord during a later journey made by Prince Hassan. "The dry land farming programme got under way in late 1978," adds Mr. Heyesen, when an

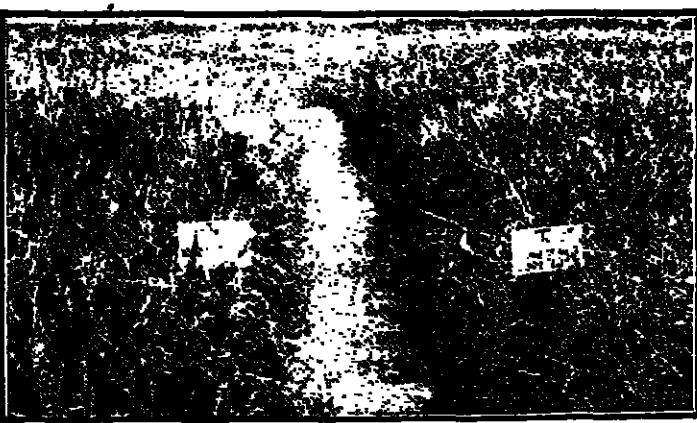
Australian team visited Jordan for an initial feasibility study. A more comprehensive one was undertaken in 1979 and phase one commenced in 1981," continues Mr. Heyesen. A three man team, David Harvey, Barry Bull, and Tim Peckover, set up the ley farming system in three areas — Karak in the south of highlands, Madaba in the central zone and Ramtha near the Syrian border. The three men, all laconic easy going Australians, left Amman in 1984 after the successful implementation of the dry land farming system on twenty properties.

Phase two

When phase two of the project went into operation in mid 1985 four new Sagric people arrived in Jordan including manager Chris Heyesen who had been involved in the project since its inception. Stuart MacArthur a livestock and pastures expert, Dr. Philip Tow a research agronomist and John Pearce a farm technician and field expert. During phase two twenty new farms were selected for the experiment and the existing farm studies are being closely followed.

"The ley farming programme," explains Mr. Heyesen "aims at increasing production in rain fed agricultural districts known in Jordan as the highlands." He defines the areas suitable for such farming as being semi-arid in character with a rainfall between 200 and 350 millilitres.

Traditional agriculture in the highlands, explains Mr. Heyesen, consists of a bi-annual crop. The year following the commercial crop which is usually wheat or barley, the land is left fallow. This system he adds, "reputedly conserves moisture in the soil and certainly crops are far more productive after a fallow period." However, he continues, "there is serious debate in scientific circles as to whether moisture levels are improved."



Field trials near Madaba to test cereal: legume makes best suited to Jordan's climate and soil (J.T. file photo).

Advantages of legumes

With the Australian ley farming programme a legume crop is grown instead of the fallow. The advantages are manifold as Mr. Heyesen points out. Land fertility is improved by the introduction of nitrogen into the soil via the legume crop and thus soil structure is also upgraded. With increased forage production, livestock output is raised. Soil erosion too is minimised and controlled by the new cropping procedure.

The legume crop introduced by the Australians goes under the milky name of medicago which is shortened to medic. Best described by the lay man as a long stalked type clover, it was accidentally introduced into Australia last century and grows wild in Jordan in a native strain.

The selection of farmers who are participating in the experiment was originally made by the Jordan Co-operative Organisation, explains Mr. Heyesen. He adds, "a lot more people are being introduced to our system through the J.C.O.'s machinery stations." These stations provide farm equipment for collective use as well as seeds and fertilizers at minimum prices.

"We offered incentives (seeds

and fertilizer) to the original participants in our experiment," says Mr. Heyesen, as there is an element of risk in any new project. "A recent sociological survey carried out for the Australian team discovered farmers involved in the project are of above average education and are highly interested in innovation on their properties. Whilst those involved directly in the programme have medium sized holdings, between 40 and 50 hectares, both small and large land owners generally are interested in new methods, to increase productivity." "We were heartened to find the rural community actively looking for better ways to improve their properties and crops," says Mr. Heyesen.

Jordanian agricultural experts are delighted with the progress and future possibilities of the ley farming programme. According to Dr. Mohammad Harb, an expert in ruminant nutrition at the University of Jordan, the full scale implementation of the project could significantly raise crop and livestock output in the Kingdom and thus minimise the food import bill. He adds, "we have at least one million dunums (100,000 hectares) of land kept fallow, if we planted only 150,000 dunums (15,000 hectares) of this we could

produce 45,000 tonnes of forage."

The problems involved in introducing the scheme could be easily overcome says Dr. Harb and the system adapted to Jordanian conditions. Seeds, for example can be modified to suit the local environment. Experiments indicate a mixture of bitter vetch and barley or woollypodded vetch, again mixed with barley, are the most productive forage for Jordanian conditions. "Grazing rights on planted crops were an initial problem," he continues as shepherds often mistook the medic crop for an indigenous free range forage. "Educating the people as to planted crop and range grazing will easily overcome this difficulty," he adds.

Group farming

If a Ministry of Agriculture decision is made to implement the scheme on a large scale through the high-lands, cooperation between groups of farmers would be essential says Dr. Harb. "for the economical introduction of the system." The J.C.O.'s machinery stations could be expanded, and communal sowing, fertilizing, harvesting and baling of forage would significantly reduce costs to small farmers, who are the majority in Jordan. Subsidies would also be necessary, according to Dr. Harb, for seeds and fertilizers to initiate the project.

The benefits to Jordan far outweigh the problems of implementation, says Dr. Harb. "Soil condition is improved, diminishing range land will be preserved as artificial forage will be available for livestock. Meat production will be increased — a boon to our balance of payments bill as much red meat is imported to Jordan." Finally, cereal production, particularly wheat would be increased, thus helping Jordan reach an important Ministry of Agriculture goal — self-sufficiency in wheat production," Dr. Harb concludes.

Aquino promises reforms as Marcos flees

(Continued from page 1)

Party. She promised to respect the bases agreement until it expires in 1991. At the same news conference Mr. Laurel said a new treaty governing use of the bases would have to be drafted and put to the people in a plebiscite.

General Fidel Ramos, Mrs.

Iraqi warplanes resume action

(Continued from page 1)

the Faq Peninsula. Up to Tuesday, Iraqi warplanes and helicopter gunships had flown some 7,600 missions against Iranian positions, and economic and military targets inside Iran, since the offensive started.

Iraq's naval commander, Rear Admiral Abed Mohammad Abdullah, told reporters at his headquarters near Basra on the Shatt Al Arab waterway that his forces had cut all marine supply lines to Iranian troops in the Faq Peninsula.

He estimated Iran's invasion force on the Faq Peninsula at between 200,000 and 250,000 men, and put Iranian casualties at up to 130,000 killed or wounded.

Iraq claimed its forces advanced deeper into mountainous northeastern Iraq on Wednesday. The claimed advance was made during a night operation marking the second phase of Iran's new offensive launched on Monday night, reported Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA).

IRNA claimed the latest push took Iranian troops 25 kilometres inside Iraq and within an equal distance from Suleymaniyah, the twin capital of Iraq's Kurdish-inhabited rugged mountain region.

Fernandez, retained as central bank governor by Mrs. Aquino

predicted no immediate policy changes. But the mood in the financial community was upbeat, with business leaders telling Reuters that Mrs. Aquino's victory had installed a new confidence,

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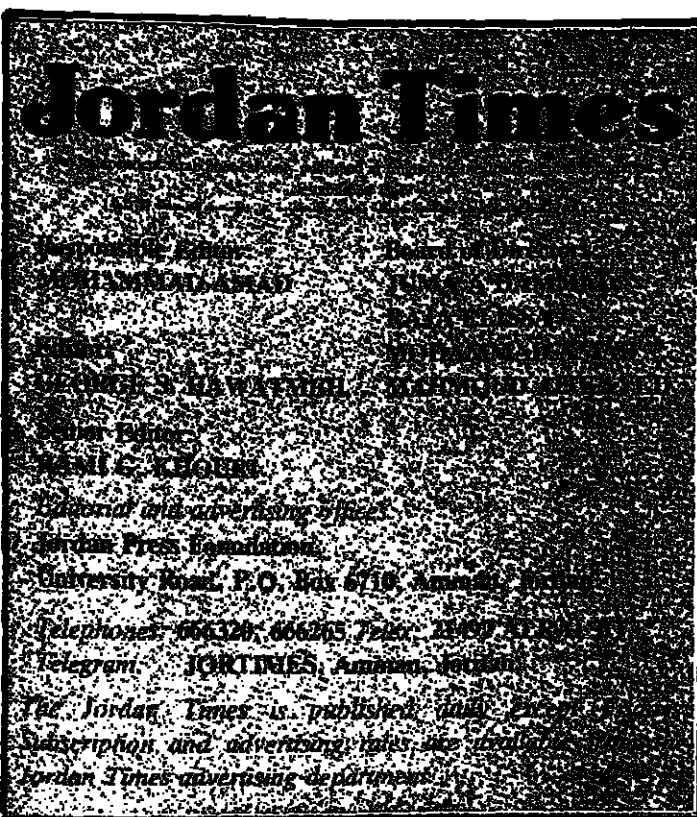
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Joy for all

IT HAS been a bad month for tyrants — and tyranny. The departure of former President Ferdinand Marcos of the Philippines from his country, a few weeks after Haiti's former President Jean-Claude Duvalier hastily departed his own land, is a vivid reminder to people throughout the world that self-imposed strongmen rarely last forever. In recent years, others have followed the same path, including, in our part of the world, the Shah of Iran and former President Numeiri of Sudan. What lesson does one draw? What lesson do we in the Middle East draw?

The most obvious lesson — and the one that both Mr. Duvalier and Mr. Marcos appear to have learned with more speed, mercy and humility than others of their ilk who came and went before them — is that guns alone cannot protect you in the end. And more particularly, guns cannot protect you from your own people.

There are many theories about what is right and wrong in the Third World. Ultimately, those theories return to the basic reality that has been demonstrated yet again this month in Haiti and the Philippines — that genuine political power and authority must emanate from a two-way process of faith, trust and interaction between the governing and the governed. The consent of the governed is a political principle that was manifested most visibly in 18th century France and the United States. It is still valid. One ignores it at one's peril.

There will be other Shahs, Numeiris, Duvaliers and Marcoses. There will always be instances where freedom triumphs over tyranny, where democracy triumphs over autocracy, and where political participation triumphs over political denial and alienation. To have followed the events in Haiti and the Philippines this month has been a most extraordinary and heartening experience. But simply to be rid of one's dictators is not in itself a total triumph. The victory will be complete when an autocratic, abusive, selfish system based on people who thought themselves near-deities is replaced by a system which respects the political and human rights of all its citizens. We wish the people of Haiti and the Philippines well. We share their joy.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Calling for unity

TWO points were the focus of King Hussein's speeches to the masses gathered at the Royal Court to voice support for their leader. These were: the dangerous stage the Arabs are going through at this moment of their history and the Jordanian and Palestinian identity. King Hussein pointed to the serious situation in occupied Palestine and referred to the enemy's plans directed against the unity of this people. The Gulf war, the civil war in Lebanon and the general weakness and divisions among Arab countries are all dangers threatening the Arab Nation. But the gravest danger of all is the continued occupation of Palestinian land by the Israeli enemy which tries to evict the people from their own homeland and steal their land and property. Jordan, in its present position in direct confrontation with the Zionist enemy, has realized that such dangers can only be confronted through cohesion and unity among the members of the same family. Jordan has realized that our common enemy is concerned with sowing seeds of division among us and therefore, every effort is needed to strengthen the united Jordanian family. Each people can maintain their separate identity, but can also form one united nation. This nation which has been steadfast in the face of danger and challenges can and should be able to hold out in the face of the enemy's plots and machinations.

Al Dustour: Two people on the march

KING Hussein in speeches to the masses gathered at the Royal Court has put forth a question about the means to be adopted for regaining Arab rights and restoring the usurped lands. He also pointed out that the challenges were great and the danger was threatening the whole nation which is at present weak and divided. He said this situation makes it incumbent upon us to move and find a solution requiring sacrifice and effort. An advantage for this people in its long struggle and its march is that it is united in one family and it is determined to abort all enemy plans for swallowing up Palestinian land. These challenges presented by the enemy call on all Jordanians and the Palestinians to join hands and take speedy action directed towards liberating Palestinian land and regaining people's rights. The King stressed the need for maintaining this advantage, this unity among the two peoples if the aspired goals are to be achieved. He said the two peoples should pursue their efforts and their struggle and should never despair because of the temporary difficulties and the obstacles in the way.

Sawt Al Shaab: Allegiance for the King

THE huge masses of people representing various sectors in this country have been visiting the Royal Court over the past week to express support for the King and allegiance to the Hashemite throne. These masses call to renew their allegiance and to demonstrate their determination to pursue the struggle behind the King and regain lost lands and usurped rights. The people have been voicing their support for King Hussein who inherited the Great Arab Revolt and its principles and objectives, and who has devoted his life and effort to implement them. Therefore, modern Jordan is an extension of that revolt which broke out at the start of the 20th century to try to achieve justice and to bring freedom and unity for the Arabs. Despite numerous obstacles, the Jordanian people, who now voice their support for the King, marched behind their leader and their monarch, and were able to realize great achievements. Now, the masses are behind their leader once again to regain their lands in Palestine.

VIEW FROM AMERICA

Oil prices war: Who is blackmailing whom?

By Franz Schurmann

SAN FRANCISCO — Ever since the year 1986 began, one news item has predominated in the media: the plunging of oil prices. Almost every day there are reports or analyses of the oil situation.

By now, in February, the general outlines of the reasons for the plunge in prices have been made clear. U.S. newspaper readers have been told that a price war is going on between Saudi Arabia and Britain. The Saudis, we are told, began the price war last fall in order to force Britain to agree to worldwide oil price stabilization. The British refused. And because the Saudis pushed their oil production way up, world oil prices have been coming down.

American reactions to the oil price plunge have been ambiguous. On the one hand, the stock market is clearly happy. Lower oil prices mean more money available for business

growth. And that is good. But the stock market is much more sensitive to the domestic American than to the world economy. Business observers closer to the world economy worry that the price plunge could re-ignite the Third World debt crisis and even endanger the world monetary system.

While the American media agree that the Saudis seem to have started the big new price war, their explanations tend to be simple in the extreme. The Saudis, we are told, were losing money because others were selling more than they. And so now they have increased production, and are making more money because they are selling more, even if at lower prices.

But the American media do not wonder if there were political reasons for the Saudi move. We are told by news reports from the Middle East

that the Saudis decided last fall to launch the price war. Don't American readers remember what happened last fall?

For reasons that I cannot fully explain, the Reagan administration decided to strengthen its links to Israel and turn its backs to the Arab World. The turning point was the Israeli raid on the PLO headquarters in Tunis. Instead of at least taking an "even-handed" approach and keeping quiet on the incident, President Reagan chose to praise it. And then Washington went into a furious rampage against "Arab terrorism," and made threatening moves against Libya. It was so obvious that the terrorism came from extremist splinter groups that had little weight even in the more radical factions of the PLO. The terrorist attacks were criminal, yet they were politically inconsequential. Why should Washington have be-

come so super-excited about them?

But it did, and it is quite likely that the Saudis, angry at another of Washington's flip-flops, decided to make use of their economic weapon. And they aimed it at Britain. Washington's close ally. They have done it before, notably during the October 1973 war when their boycott and OPEC's raising of oil prices by 400 per cent sent a very strong message to Washington.

Why did Washington become so super-excited? Maybe there was some real progress being made on the peace front. Maybe the Jordan-PLO peace initiative was beginning to find some support in Washington. Maybe even some moderate Israeli officials were becoming interested. Maybe even President Reagan was beginning to think that the time had come to make some small

moves to get the Palestinian-Israeli peace process moving.

Maybe also the hard-liners in Tel Aviv and Washington decided that something had to be done. And those hard-liners knew quite well that so barbaric an act as the Tunis bombing was certain to provoke extremist Arab groups to respond with terrorism. But it is also possible that these same hard-liners let it be known that Israeli planes and maybe even ground forces were ready to strike elsewhere in the Middle East. And these same hard-liners knew that whenever they struck they could always count on their supporters in the U.S. Congress to back them up.

Maybe the Reagan administration became terrified of what these Israeli hard-liners might do, and so capitulated to them, and agreed to pull out of the peace process. That meant rejecting all participation of

the PLO, and going back to the discredited old trick of trying to get Egypt back onto the "Camp David" track and enticing Jordan to do the same. And then came all the military bluffing-and-puffing against Col. Qadhafi, a sideshow designed to divert attention from the main problems farther to the east.

One answer to all this is Arab unity. And even from a distance it seems that the condition of Arab unity is a little better than it was some months ago. If the Gulf war should wind down, if relations between Jordan, Syria, Iraq improve, if Egypt-Libya relations improve, if some kind of new unity return to the PLO — if all this happens, then the war-minded fascists in the Israeli government may not find it so easy once again to blackmail Washington into supporting any and all of their adventures.

Cruel destiny led reluctant Cory Aquino to presidency

By Graham Lovell

Reuter

MANILA — Shy, retiring Maria Corazon Aquino, sworn in as Philippine president at a ceremony conducted by a judge in a Manila club on Tuesday, was a most unlikely contender for the country's highest office.

It was the gunning-down of charismatic opposition leader Benigno Aquino at Manila airport in August 1983 which dragged his grieving widow out of the shadows into the forefront of Philippine politics.

Chosen by opposition factions as a unity candidate to oppose her late husband's arch-foe Ferdinand Marcos in the February 7 election, the slight, convent-educated, "Cory" — buoyed by the collection of one million signatures from "grassroots" supporters — plunged into the fray.

She surprised Filipinos and clearly shocked Marcos by the intensity and the tenacity of her campaign, drawing huge, fervent crowds as she tirelessly crisscrossed the archipelago with her simple message: "Marcos must go."

Just hours after the polls closed, on the basis of voting returns from across the country, she claimed victory only to find the Marcos-appointed electoral control body, and later the Marcos-controlled parliament, using hotly-disputed figures to maintain that the president had been re-elected.

Cory Aquino accused Marcos of massive poll-rigging, a charge supported by two teams of international observers, one sent personally by President Reagan. She stuck to her claim to be the legally-elected president and summoned the 68-year-old incumbent to quit.

When Marcos refused to budge, she launched a nationwide civil disobedience campaign and boycott of pro-Marcos economic interests.

This and the heavy overseas political pressure finally took its toll on government unity, leading to Saturday's defection to the Aquino cause of Defence Minister Juan Ponce Enrile and deputy armed forces Chief-of-Staff Fidel Ramos and the dramatic events of the past three days.

When Maria Corazon Cojuangco, daughter of a rich land-owning family, married the young, ambitious Benigno Aquino, the journalist-turned-politician seemed set for a glittering career.

As "Ninoy" successively won posts as mayor, provincial gov-

ernor and then senator Cory was content, as she later said, to be "simply a politician's wife."

But senator Aquino was arrested in September 1972 when Marcos declared martial law. Released in 1980 to go to the United States for heart surgery, he was shot dead on his return to the Philippines three years later.

His murder thrust Cory into roles first as opposition kingmaker and then finally as presidential contender, publicly carrying the mantle for her dead husband.

These were not easy roles for her to play, just as she appeared out of place presiding over a family business empire from the seventh floor of a family-owned building.

"The only time I had ever been active politically was when Ninoy was campaigning to be governor (of Tarlac province) or senator," she said in an interview. "I went the usual rounds of shaking hands with people in markets, farms and factories asking them to vote for Ninoy."

"But beyond that, I was simply a politician's wife. I was completely in the background. I took care of the home and the children and Ninoy took care of the rest." She was pitched overnight into the tougher reality of Philippine politics where "goons, guns and gold" are all that count, with "allies" as much as adversaries.

As the presidential election of February 1986 and her own candidacy became more of a reality, so did the sniping from the opposition sidelines about her apparent weaknesses.

These included her political inexperience and inexperience in government, economics and world affairs, and whether she could offer a credible alternative to the 20-year authoritarian rule of Ferdinand Marcos.

"I do not pretend to be politically brilliant," Aquino retorted. She said she would gather around her "15 dedicated men and women" to help her run the economic and other affairs of the government.

What she would offer, she said, would be "sincerity and commitment in restoring the rights and freedoms that Filipinos have lost during the Marcos administration."

Cory Aquino was born in Manila on January 25, 1933, and educated in part in the United States where she gained a bachelor of arts degree in French and Mathematics. She and her husband had three children, two daughters and a son now in their teens.

Aquino's premier Laurel comes from political family

By Graham Lovell

Reuter

MANILA — Salvador Laurel, named by Corazon Aquino as prime minister of her provisional government, comes from a distinguished Philippine political family that includes a president, provincial governors and an ambassador.

His appointment was announced soon after Aquino was sworn in as a rival president to Ferdinand Marcos.

Despite his family background, Laurel is in some ways an upstart among his contemporaries. Unlike most he did not go through the usual route of locally-elected government before entering national politics.

"I was drafted in 1967 and elected to the senate although 10 years earlier some Nationalista party leaders wanted me to be their candidate for congress," he said in an interview.

"I declined then on the advice of my father, who said I ought first to build up my law practice so I always had something to fall back on. Possibly that was a mistake

because I was not a very effective speaker. I was rather pompous and professional."

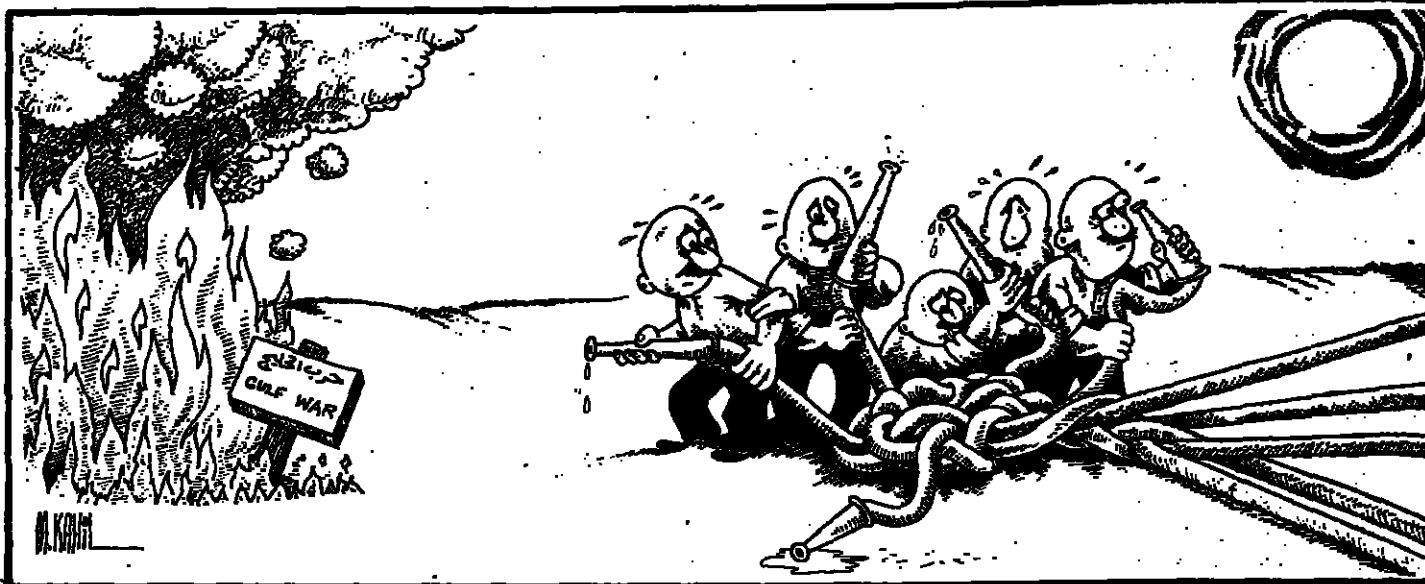
When Marcos, also then Nationalista, declared martial law in 1972 and dissolved the two-chamber houses of congress, Laurel joined others in a political limbo.

But even by complex Philippine political standards, the Laurel family association with Marcos has been tricky.

Doy's older brother Jose Laurel, as speaker of the house of representatives and a Nationalista leader, had ensured for Marcos the party's presidential nomination and election in 1965.

In 1971, Marcos dumped the older Laurel as speaker but his foes "blame" the Laurel family for helping make him president.

Still, the young Laurel was elected to the interim national assembly in 1978 as a Nationalista ally of Marcos' New Society Movement (KBL). He broke ranks when the KBL became a formal party and quit the chamber following the murder in August 1983 of former senator and opposition leader Benigno Aquino.



Marcos, the president who left in a hurry

MANILA — A half-eaten meal lay on a banquet table, scrawled notes lay on the presidential desk, there were some bills for flowers, and a pile of bullets and guns lay on the floor.

Everything pointed to someone leaving in a hurry — and that's what happened to Ferdinand Marcos did Tuesday night.

The stilling and undressed 68-year-old Philippine president, his wife Imelda, about 30 close relatives and his armed forces chief General Fabian Ver were whisked out of Manila by U.S. helicopters leaving behind an eerily silent palace of treasures.

Servants left behind prayed in a chapel. Some had tears streaming down their faces as they chanted over and over again: "God have mercy on us."

The peace was soon broken by thousands of Filipinos who stormed Marcos' Malacanang palace, shouting "We have won, we are free."

By midnight, an estimated 20,000 people had surged through the palace's wrought iron gates — some seeking revenge against the man who had ruled them for 20 years, others just curious to see the opulence of it all.

Before the crowd arrived reporters wandered freely through the ornate rooms of the Spanish-colonial palace in central Manila where only hours before Marcos was sworn in for a fourth term and vowed he would never resign.

Downstairs, tables were overturned and paper littered the floor.

In a huge ornate reception room

with mirrors on every wall and chandeliers hanging from the ceiling the half-eaten dinner — it looked like a curry in an aluminium foil container of the type supplied by fast food restaurants — lay on a long table.

Maps with voting figures showing how Marcos had fared in the disputed February 7 presidential election that led to his downfall were on display in an ante-room. Rifles, a machine gun and bandoliers of bullets lay nearby.

Reuter correspondent John Parker found himself alone in Marcos' study. He sat in the president's chair and put his feet up on the leather inlaid desk scattered with the last scribbled notes of the old regime — including one noting the names of military men written by Marcos himself.

Parker said: "The room was undisturbed and photographs of the Marcos family were on a cabinet. His books lined the walls."

"I was finally interrupted by a dazed youth holding a box of expensive chocolates. He offered me one and went away."

Among the notes on the presidential desk was a copy of a statement by White House spokesman Larry Speakes dated February 24 with the carelessly underlined passage:

"Regrettably there are now reports of an attempt to resolve the situation by force which will surely result in bloodshed."

Another note, hand-written, unsigned but addressed to someone called "Art" said: "People are calling in suggesting the pre-

sident should say it isn't true what the (radio) Veritas is broadcasting that the ... comrades from regions one to 12 have already pledged their support for Enrile and Ramos."

Also on the desk was an appointment card dated February 22 for a meeting with President Reagan's diplomatic trouble-shooter Philip Habib.

Another reporter found himself in the palace medical room. "There was this huge machine with flashing lights and wires. It looked like something out of a Frankenstein film set," he said.

Marcos' bedroom contained oxygen tanks, a reminder of his failing health. On his bed was a combat helmet. There was also a video tape entitled "Hitler: A Career." Some documents had been torn up and thrown down the toilet.

In Imelda Marcos' bedroom, a carved wooden crown hung over a giant bed. There was also a painting of the president's wife — a former beauty queen — as a young woman. She was depicted half naked.

There were no signs of Marcos soldiers in the palace ground but reporters were finally disturbed by the throng that swept through the gates, brushing guards aside.

Some people burst into Marcos' study and scribbled on his notepad. One man stood on another desk and screamed: "I want to kill Marcos."

Youth lounged in the presidential chair in the state room, others burst documents outside.

People rampaged through the administrative section of the palace ripping down pictures of Marcos and his wife, tipping over tables and chairs and forcing open locked doors and ransacking desks.

Fountains tinkled in the well-tended garden and one woman strolling across the lawn said: "It has taken us 20 years to get a look at the palace."

The crowd later stormed the main palace building, hauling down chandeliers, plundering sitting rooms and making off with shoes, towels and radios. One 15-year-old boy walked out wearing an over-sized barong tagalog (a Filipino dress shirt).

Some amused themselves by flushing the presidential lavatories.

Some people in the crowd cheered the looters on. Others shouted "don't destroy the palace."

A military spokesman told Reuters suspected Communist rebels were believed to be among the crowd and had helped themselves to guns from the palace armory.

In the streets of Manila, celebrations went on late into the night. Tens of thousands sang and danced their way along the capital's main Roxas Boulevard, waving flags, lighting bonfires and setting off fireworks.

At Manila airport, closed for most of the day as the last vestiges of the Marcos era crumbled, crowd milled around the main terminal following rumours that the deposed president was going to make his final exit there.

Johannesburg celebrates 100 years of whites' prosperity, blacks' oppression

By Arik Bachar

Reuter

JOHANNESBURG — South Africa's biggest city will mark its 100th birthday with street parades and cultural shows — but blacks, whose blood, sweat and tears made Johannesburg a golden city, are refusing to join the party.

Against a background of relentless countryside black rioting, Johannesburg is celebrating its birth in 1886 when the largest ever gold ridge was discovered to pre-empt one of the world's richest cities.

While whites in Johannesburg, South Africa's commercial centre, spend millions on festivities, people of other races mourn 100 years of discrimination.

Abdul Bhamjee, an Indian official of the non-racial National Soccer League which has rejected invitations to century matches, told Reuters: "There is nothing to celebrate, only 100 years of oppression. The sweat, toil and exploitation of non-whites built Johannesburg but we cannot live there."

The country's apartheid policy of statutory race segregation decrees that Bhamjee and millions of other non-whites must live in segregated, often inferior areas, threatened with the wrath of law if they move into the city.

David Lewis, chairman of the Centenary Festival Association, conceded that calls by major black organisations for a boycott of the occasion have had a marked effect.

"The fun element has gone out of the centenary," he said.

"We hoped for a Mardi Gras-type festival with whites and blacks mixing together and we are saddened by the boycotts. We feel they (blacks) are being silly because when you have a birthday you don't celebrate the disasters of previous years."

The organisers had hoped for multiracial gatherings in the form of cultural and other events. Street parades now will be confined to white Johannesburgers as the black townships are not willing to participate and cultural shows by imported dance companies will be essentially for the benefit of whites.

The celebrations are going on all year and no specific date is marked as the city's birthday.

The discovery of gold on the farm Randjesagte 100 years ago is universally accepted as the only reason for a city the size of Johannesburg to sprout on a barren plateau.

As the enormity of the find began to unfold, thousands of fortune seekers from all over the world streamed in to establish a mining town.

What made the find even more appealing was the abundance of blacks willing to do the hard labour for low wages.

A century on, the discrepancy between the toil of blacks and the wealth piled up by whites remains a grim reality of the country's bitter race relations.

Some 10,000 black mine-workers have died in accidents over the past 20 years in South Africa, mostly in mines around Johannesburg.

Black labourers, despite recent progress on the trade union front, still do most of the manual work involved in gold extraction, working at depths of up to three km for wages lower than those of white colleagues.

Black opponents of the government often speak with bitterness about having had to work in the gold industry while watching its wealth lavished primarily on the white minority, which has built up one of the highest standards of living in the world.

Lewis said spending on festivities during the year, including

cultural and sports events, will amount to 142 million rand (\$69 million). But residents of black townships around the city say the boycott calls have been so effective that no celebrations are being planned in black areas.

The country's largest anti-apartheid movement, the United Democratic Front, has just joined the biggest black trade union federation in "a joint campaign against the racist Johannesburg centenary celebrations."

"To the black majority, the centenary celebrations express 100 years of exploitation and oppression," the two groups said in a statement.

The mood of animosity shrouding the centenary has been compounded by the nationwide rioting of the past two years which has claimed over 1,130 lives, mostly of black people killed in clashes with police or by intercommunal violence.

The unrest death rate so far in 1986 could make the centenary year one of the most violent in recent South African history.

Last week at least 19 people were killed in fierce clashes in Alexandra township, a stone's throw away from Johannesburg's affluent whites-only suburbs.

مكتبة الادب

In the cash society of Switzerland, some hope to make change

By Margaret Stender

European record

ZURICH — The Swiss have long been adept at handling other people's money, with their high-tech banking centres serving as a cache for cash from all over the world.

But when it comes to their own loot, Swiss citizens act more like hillbillies than gnomes. They're more apt to put their money under the mattress than in a numbered account. "There are people who keep cash hidden in cooking pots," says Peter C. Bohren, a Swiss Bank Corp. vice president.

Such behaviour stems from a national tradition of secrecy, a low crime rate, slow inflation and a memory of when times weren't so good. But Zurich psychologist Karl Spillmann also sees a further motive: "Money and decency go together," she says. "Holding money in your hand is the concrete proof that you live within your means."

The Swiss prove it every month, when they line up at their local post offices clutching fistfuls of cash to pay their bills. They even make sure that the currency itself is proper: A special staff is employed to sort out dirty or damaged bills. In fact, Switzerland may be the only country in the world where counterfeiters face a stiff jail sentence and a potential suit for copyright infringement.

To be sure, in other countries such as Italy, Spain and Portugal with large underground economies, cash is also a common form of payment. But for the sheer amount of cash per capita, Switzerland holds the European record. Some 24 billion Swiss francs (\$12 billion) are in circulation at any given time — or about SF3,800 (\$1,900) for each man, woman and child. In second-ranked Germany, each person holds about half that amount.

"We're a cash society," says Jean-Pierre Beguelin, a Swiss National Bank economist. Franz Raggenbass, a spokesman for Migros, the country's biggest retail chain, says "We get no pressure from customers to accept checks and credit cards. Who wants to stand behind someone filling out a check?"

Only about 5 per cent of the population uses checks and credit cards. Most payments are made in cash or through invoices that give people about a month to pay. "The typical Swiss draws money out of his account, goes to the PTT and stands in a long line to pay his bills," says Mr. Beguelin.

The custom is so engrained that it's become part of the social life. "Going to the post office is a nice outing for the kids," says Mar-

ianne Grima, a young mother with two pre-schoolers. "It's interesting for them to see how payments are made." Many Swiss housewives have no bank accounts or access to those of their husbands, and receive the household money in cash each month.

Banks moved late

Swiss banks were late to move into the business of paying their customers' bills. Today, they see it as a service that attracts mass deposits. "Banks have only started in a big way in the last 10 years," says Bernhard Simon, vice president at Swiss Bank Corp. in Basel.

But as technology advances, there are signs that Switzerland's cash society could be threatened. More people are using bank transfers and other services to pay their bills. American Express reports that the number of its cardholders has tripled since 1980 to 180,000, and says their use has increased. "Businessmen are using their cards at home now as well as when they travel outside the country," says American Express's Swiss manager, J. Clark Halimann.

Because of costs and convenience, both banks and postal services are studying and installing instruments to make cashless payments easier. Under con-

sideration are home banking, telebanking and point-of-sale machines in stores that automatically debit purchases from the customer's account.

However, these new developments are seen as additional, not replacement, services. Says postal services director Otto Caprez: In countries like the U.S., France and Britain, "there is pressure to replace expensive check-oriented systems. In Switzerland's cash society, we don't have that pressure. We can introduce such services only as fast as the people are willing to accept them."

But tradition only partly explains the Swiss propensity for paying in cash. The economic climate means that the Swiss have suffered little penalty for holding on to cash. "Low inflation and interest rates provided little incentive to move away from cash," says Mr. Beguelin.

And a low crime makes it fairly safe to carry money. In 1984, this country of 6.4 million people had 1,274 robberies, down from 1,325 a year earlier. "People feel secure in the streets. They can carry money without fear of mugging," Mr. Beguelin explains.

Switzerland's famous secrecy pact also plays its part. Even post-bankers take money out of their accounts and join their fellow citizens at the PTT counter. Swiss

Bank Corp.'s Mr. Simon expresses a common feeling among his profession: "What I pay is no one's business at the bank."

Residents of small villages where everybody knows everybody else go out of their way to maintain their privacy. "Ordinary bills I pay at the local post office," says a transport-company owner in a small lakeside community near Zurich. "If there is something personal — to do with my divorce or a traffic fine — I drive to a post office where nobody knows me."

Bankers add that the tax department has less chance of checking up on delinquents when they pay in cash through the PTT. Although bankers shy away from mentioning the role of foreign funds deposited here to be shielded from non-Swiss tax authorities, elegant shops say that they benefit.

"We have a lot of foreigners who pay really large bills — 15,000 or more francs — on the spot in cash. They can't spend it back in their own countries," says a boutique manager on the elegant Zurich Bahnhofstrasse.

But the cash custom was here before the foreign money. "Switzerland was not always a rich country," says Swiss Bank Corp.'s Mr. Bohren. "It was poor not so long ago. There are people who

remember that. The value of money is very real here."

He points out that the Swiss are careful about how they keep their money. The Swiss National Bank ensures that the country's notes are probably the cleanest in the world, employing a staff of 20 to run machines that recognise the tiniest spots, holes, tears and smudges. They sort through 220 million notes and decide that an average of 60 million bills annually should be destroyed at a replacement cost of around SF17 million.

"Sometimes," says Mr. Simon, "I think that it goes too far."

Roland Tornare, the national bank's chief cashier, disagrees. "Bank notes are a country's visiting card," he says. "The first thing anyone does when they visit another country is change money. What do they think when the notes are dirty?"

Such attitudes suggest how hard Helvetians' habits will be to break. Mr. Simon believes that "it will take about 30 years to turn Switzerland into a cashless society, if then."

The pace of changes so far supports that prediction. Of all the new services offered by banks and the postal service, one is by far the most popular: The sidewalk cash dispenser — The Wall Street Journal.

Randa Habibi's Corner

'The other half' of diplomacy

IT is not only male diplomats who are active in Jordan, their wives play a major role too.

Some of those ladies introduced in the past few years all kinds of activities in order to contribute to the cultural life of our country. Others found in Jordan the ideal place to explore their talents and put them to use.

I remember one ambassador's wife who gave courses on the national cooking of her country. Those courses, which were very popular at the time, added to Jordanian ladies' abilities to diversify their meals.

Another lady introduced natural flower arrangement and taught a group of Jordanian women the art of making artificial flower arrangement.

We had also an ambassador's wife who was a writer. The book that she wrote while in Jordan about Arab women received international acclaim and won several awards.

Houriye Abdel Latif Laraki, wife of the ambassador of Morocco is the latest example of this phenomenon. On March 12 she will hold her first painting exhibition in Amman, where she found the inspiration for her work.

Encouraged by the pioneer of all artists in Jordan, Princess Fahrelnissa Zeld, Houriyeh let her talent explode. And this explosion of colours, secrecy, romanticism and femininity will be displayed for the eyes of the public.

"There is something about Jordan," one of those ladies told me. "Something that encourages me to create." Some think that free time, more available in Amman for diplomats' wives than in other crowded capitals, allows them to participate in many ways in the cultural life of Jordan. Others think that Jordanians' openness and willingness to learn makes things easier.

Well, whatever is the reason, we can only be pleased and proud that our country allows many of those ladies to put in practice ... an old dream.

Bertolucci films life of Chinese emperor who became gardener

By Mark O'Neill

Reuter

PEKING — Award-winning Italian director Bernardo Bertolucci has taken on his most ambitious project — a 20-million-dollar film about China's last emperor who was born into decadent luxury and died a humble gardener.

It is Bertolucci's first film in Asia and, he says, the first time China has allowed a Western director to make a movie about its modern history.

"This movie is difficult for me, about a culture I don't know. Western concepts are inappropriate here. I must read, study and speak with people," he said, as he walked round locations in Peking's former imperial palace.

He decided to make the film after reading an autobiography of the emperor, Henry Pu Yi, in 1984. "I was fascinated by the character of a man who was kidnapped by history and put on the throne at the age of three and died a gardener," he said.

Foreign film-makers have shot a handful of movies in China since 1979, including "Marco Polo" and a dramatization of James Clavell's best-selling novel "Tai-pan." The 20 weeks of shooting on Bertolucci's epic are due to begin in June in former palaces and homes of Pu Yi in five Chinese cities and in studios in Peking and Rome.

The infant Pu Yi became emperor of the declining Manchurian dynasty in 1908, only to be overthrown in 1911 when the Chinese republic was founded.

In 1934 the Japanese made him "emperor" of Manchukuo, the puppet state they created in occupied northeast China. As the Japanese empire crumbled in 1945, Pu Yi was captured by adv-

ancing Soviet troops, imprisoned in the Soviet Union and handed over to the Chinese in 1950.

He spent nine years in prison in China, and later worked as a gardener in Peking's botanical gardens. He died in 1967.

Bertolucci and two associates wrote the screenplay from Pu Yi's official autobiography "From Emperor to Citizen," assisted by the former emperor's 78-year-old brother, and had it approved by China's culture ministry.

"The ministry made no substantive changes. Things are changing in China. There is now room for movies that are not propaganda," Bertolucci said.

"It is a fascinating story. Other countries killed their emperors. But in China he was allowed to live, even after collaborating with the Japanese, his biggest mistake."

"Pu Yi was re-educated and forced to think of his past as he had never done before. He became better," he added.

The logistics of the project are formidable.

China will permit shooting in the grounds of the former imperial palaces but not inside them. "They are fearful of fire or damage. I am disappointed but it is understandable," Bertolucci said. "The emperor was overthrown in 1911 when the Chinese died."

This means construction of expensive and complicated interiors at studios in Peking and Rome.

The script calls for 9,000 costumes, which are being bought, borrowed or made.

"They should not look too new, as they do in traditional Peking opera. They should look like clothes, not costumes," the director said.

Casting has been complicated

by the fact that, although Bertolucci wants as many local Chinese actors as possible, few of them speak English, the language the film will be made in.

This has meant auditioning hundreds of hopefuls among Chinese communities in the United States, Hong Kong and Singapore.

Chinese-American John Lone, a star of the recent hit movie "Year of the Dragon" set in New York's Chinatown, will play Pu Yi from the age of 18.

Pu Yi's empress will be played by Jean Chen, an actress from Shanghai who has been studying at the University of California at Los Angeles.

Sean Connery was originally named for the part of Reginald Johnston, Pu Yi's English tutor, but Bertolucci said the role was still unfilled.

He said most of the extras would be local Chinese, especially those from Hong Kong, who "whose faces resemble more closely the faces of the past."

"Arrangements have gone smoothly so far," he added, saying nothing about the cost overruns and bureaucratic delays that other foreign film-makers in China have complained of.

He and his party took still and video pictures of possible locations as they walked briskly through the forbidden city, Peking's most famous landmark, with crowds of Chinese looking on.

"I remember Pu Yi," said an old man leaning on a wall painted vermilion, the imperial colour. "He had an astonishing life. He was lucky not to be executed for collaborating."

"But we gave him a second chance and he reformed. I don't think any man in history had a life like his," he added.

Cuba: Farming for profit under Socialism

By George Gedda

The Associated Press

HAVANA — The spirit of free enterprise has taken root in Socialist Cuba, where farmers' markets permitted by the government to ease a food shortage have made entrepreneurs of the men who till the soil.

The government, hoping also to profit from spinoff trade, has gone into business for itself, establishing competing markets, usually located nearby.

Farmer Luis Acosta, a

youthful-looking 66, has to be at market by 3 a.m. if he is to secure an up-front place. At the 7 a.m. opening, streams of customers begin arriving.

They are Cubans willing to pay comparatively high prices for the wide selection and generally good quality produce.

Acosta, who has a plot of land about 40 miles from the capital, clearly likes the system. Since the ban on free enterprise was lifted in 1981, he has bought an air conditioner and a colour television set and replaced wood construction at

his home with cement.

On this day, he's selling mangos, a potato-like vegetable, for 70 to 80 cents a pound. That is no small sum for Cuban workers, many of whom earn just 200 pesos a month. A peso is roughly equal to 1 dollar, with 100 cents to the peso.

Nearby, Pedro Sosa, 34, is hard at work selling potatoes. A small smile betrays his satisfaction with how the day is going. Eight people are lined up to buy his potatoes at 40 cents a pound.

Sosa guesses he'll gross 480

pesos this day, an astronomical sum for most Cubans. But his net income will be considerably less because of the 20 per cent tax he must pay and other costs of his operation.

Like Acosta, Sosa believes in the system. Asked if he is doing better now than he was before, he replied, "Si, claro" (Yes, sure).

The markets are a departure from Socialist orthodoxy. But, in the wake of the discontent demonstrated during the Mariel boat lift in 1980 when thousands of Cubans left for the United States,

the government felt a modest dose of free enterprise would improve the diet of Cubans and increase agricultural income.

In addition to allowing farmers' markets, the government set up so-called "parallel markets," without the rationing in effect in most state stores, as an alternative to the private sector approach.

The farmers' markets and the parallel markets represent innovation. At both, there is no limit on how much a customer can buy, a major shift in a country long plagued by shortages and rationing.

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Hard times ahead as Texas counts cost of oil price slump

By Julie Vorman

Reuter

DALLAS — "The yellow rose of Texas" is drooping these days. As the oil-rich state calculates the impact of the world slump in prices it has no doubt it faces some hard times.

Since November, prices for the crude oil that is the lifeblood of the state's economy have plunged by nearly half.

Dallas's glamorous television soap-opera oil millionaires may be unaffected by these dramatic developments, but in real life state leaders and the business community are worried about how to weather the worst economic climate in decades.

The state's year-long 150th birthday party celebrations, honoured this week with a visit from Britain's Prince Charles, are taking place against a sombre economic background.

The spot market price for West Texas Intermediate, the most sensitive U.S. oil indicator, has dipped to around \$16 a barrel this month. State comptroller Bob Bullock estimates that for every dollar the price drops, state coffers lose \$100 million in annual tax revenue.

That may mean education reforms grudgingly adopted by the state legislature to boost academic standards may have to be cut as Texas faces a shortfall of up to \$1.5 billion.

The state, required by law to balance its budget, may even be forced to hold a special legislative session to cope with the shortfall,

according to some worried state lawmakers.

Harold Gross, economist at Southern Methodist University's Centre for Enterprise, found in a study that Texas could lose 250,000 jobs and \$30 billion in private purchasing power if oil prices were to stick at \$15 a barrel.

He forecast a dismal outlook to the end of the decade, one more familiar to Detroit car assembly-line workers and Pittsburgh steelworkers than to West Texas wildcaters who borrowed money expecting oil to reach \$50 a barrel.

Banks, retailers, restaurants and other service businesses will soon feel a ripple effect as more small oil companies and drilling contractors go out of business, Gross said.

Despite widely hailed efforts to diversify its economy, Texas has lost 118,000 manufacturing jobs and fallen below the national average in personal income over the past two years.

"Oil is no different from steel or automobiles. We have a lot of competition coming from other countries," said Gross. "This sequence of events has the same implications for Texas that it had for Michigan and the rust belt."

Signs of the times are everywhere. At a recent house for-closure sale held by the veterans' administration in Houston, several buyers needed only credit cards to buy three-bedroom homes for less than \$5,000.

And in a sharp blow to its affluent image, a Harvard University task force recently said Texas had more counties with residents liv-

ing in poverty than any other U.S. state.

Even Dallas, the Texas city most frequently singled out as a model of a diversified urban economy, is feeling the effects. Atlantic Richfield two weeks ago announced a layoff of 1,000 white collar workers, nearly a third of its Dallas workforce.

The downturn will last at least 10 years, predicts John Falb, vice-president of Texas' largest bank, Republicbank.

The trend is especially worrisome for Republic and other Texas banks which fuelled their spectacular growth in the 1970s with energy, international and real estate loans.

All three areas have soured, resulting in 20 Texas bank failures in the past four years.

"The Texas banking business," observed Harvey Mitchell, chairman of Interfirst Corp., "is a lousy business to be in."

In the Permian basin of west Texas, an oil-rich reservoir that pumps out more than 20 per cent of U.S. annual oil production, the latest price drops are unwelcome.

Midland, Odessa and surrounding oil communities, which gained 40,000 jobs during the Iranian embargo days of the late 1970s, saw nearly a third of them disappear in 1982, says the University of Texas Centre for Business Research.

Despite the state's sagging fortunes, many Texans insist its mild climate, non-union workers and lack of a state income tax will keep luring non-energy businesses to some cities.

Nelson retains WBC featherweight title with decision over Villasana

LOS ANGELES (Agencies) — Azumah Nelson of Ghana retained his World Boxing Council (WBC) featherweight championship Tuesday night on a split points decision over Marcos Villasana of Mexico, and then said he badly wanted to "whip" Irish champion Barry McGuigan.

Nelson, after successfully defending his title for the second time, since he took it from Wilfredo Gomez in December 1984, taunted his World Boxing Association (WBA) counterpart with insults, saying even Villasana could beat McGuigan.

"I always call her a girl because she doesn't want to fight me," Nelson said of McGuigan. "This guy Marcos can beat him because he can take a punch."

Nelson pounded the WBC's top-ranked contender with everything in his impressive arsenal, from snapping left jabs to thunderous rights to the body, but the 25-year-old challenger withstood every onslaught.

Villasana attacked Nelson's body throughout the 12-round contest, but the Ohio-based champion from Accra just smiled. Nelson, 27, opened up a cut on the bridge of Villasana's nose with flicking jabs in the eighth round, and his corner could not stop the blood pouring down his face.

"The blood was coming out of my nose, and I couldn't see anything at all the last four rounds," a dejected Villasana said. "I still thought I won the fight."

There were no knockdowns, but

in the later rounds the fighters battled toe-to-toe along the ropes. In the fourth round, Nelson scored with a powerful left hook to the body that rattled Villasana's legs.

The challenger looked as if he would soon become Nelson's 18th knockout victim as Nelson also swept the next three rounds with his far more impressive speed and power.

But the Acapulco native responded to the chants of "Mexico, Mexico" from the predominantly Mexican-American crowd, and he made it a closer contest than had been expected by counter-punching from the eighth to the 11th rounds.

Nelson came out dancing in the final round, jabbing and moving with the style of former heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali at his best, and scored repeatedly with left jabs to the head and body.

One of the three judges scored the fight a draw, but the others had it 116-113 and 116 to 112, pleasing the crowd but astounding some ringside observers, who saw Nelson ahead by at least three rounds.

"He fought a great fight. He came to take away the title and fought a great fight. I don't know what that one official was watching. I should have won unanimously," Nelson said.

Nelson improved his record to 23 wins against one loss. "We're looking for McGuigan now. My managers are working very hard to get the fight together. I'm not going to kill him. I'm just going to whip him like I did tonight," Nelson added.

The title fight was the main event on a card featuring exhibition contests by Mexican former world champions and WBC lightweight champion Hector "Macho" Camacho which was billed as the "fight for life."

The WBC and its coorganisers said they had hoped to raise more than \$100,000 for victims of last September's devastating earthquakes in Mexico City.

Villasana, whose record fell to 34-4, and Nelson both donated half of their purses to the cause, organisers said. They both weighed in at 125½ pounds.

Mexican former world champions Ruben Olivares, Rafael Herrera, Carlos Zarate and Pipino Cuevas treated the crowd to four-round exhibitions, but the only other legitimate fight of the night was won by Hector Lopez, the 1984 Olympic silver medalist in the featherweight class.

He defeated ninth-ranked featherweight Juan Antonio Lopez,

33, on a unanimous decision. All three judges scored the fight 98-92.

Irlis Perez defeats Quiroz

In Las Vegas, Nevada, junior welterweight Irlis "Cubanito" Perez survived a third-round knockdown and came back to take a 10-round unanimous decision over Martin Quiroz in their main event Tuesday night at the Sahara Hotel.

Quiroz, who weighed 138 pounds, floored Perez, 139 pounds, with a right to the jaw midway through the third round. But the hard-hitting Quiroz failed to finish the job while the taller, quicker Perez was dazed.

The Cuban-born Perez then took charge in the late rounds, keeping Quiroz of the United States, at bay with jabs and combination.

Perez, 32-1 with 24 knockouts, won by four, three and two points on the three judges' scorecards. Perez' lone defeat came in 1983 at the hands of Camacho.

Quiroz fell to 44-7-2 overall, and 4-5-2 for fights within the United States.

In a welterweight co-main event, Roman George of the United States, 147 pounds, upped his record to 17-1-1 with a 10-round split decision over Javier Suzzo, 148 pounds, of the United States. Suzzo, who had won 14 straight bouts, fell to 14-2.

Cameroun faces uphill struggle in Egypt

YAOUNDE (R) — Cameroun, black Africa's most successful team over the past five years, may have a hard time defending the continental title they deservedly won two years ago in Ivory Coast.

But in any case coach Claude Le Roy is looking beyond Cairo. The 38-year-old former French soccer professional says he has called on mostly inexperienced players who might be the worthy successors of the likes of Roger Milla, Teophile Abega and goalkeepers Antoine Bell and Thomas Nkono.

They were the key men in Cameroun's remarkable run in the 1982 World Cup in Spain and in the Indomitable Lions' African Nations Cup triumph two years later in Ivory Coast.

Camerounians are hoping they will be released by their clubs, along with Gregoire Mbida and Ernest Ebongue, two other experienced European-based professionals.

With Philippe Nkoro, a 26-year-old striker with French second division side Limoges and a relative newcomer to the side, they will form the backbone of the Indomitable Lions.

The men to watch among the new crop of players will be 20-year-old Oman Biyik, Canon Yaounde's skilful centre-forward, 22-year-old Tommerre Yaounde defender Christian Ebwelle, and Emile Mbouth, 21, a Union Douala midfielder.

Cameroun's tradition of producing some of Africa's best goalkeepers will be respected. Le Roy has picked 18-year-old prodigy Andre Boe in case Nkono, who plays for Barcelona, and Marseille's Bell, are not available.

The Tommerre keeper has deputised well for his two exiled compatriots and dazzled Camerounians with some magnificent saves when the Indomitable Lions beat Saudi Arabia to win the Africa-Asia Intercontinental Cup last September.

Cameroun's performances since then have been lacklustre. They made an early exit from the UDEAC tournament, snatching a 2-2 draw against lowly Chad before bowing out to Congo, the eventual runners-up to Gabon.

They later lost 2-1 in a friendly to Ghanaian club champions Hearts of Oak.

But Le Roy has worked hard to blend experience with youth and he feels a "real, homogenous team" will have emerged by the time the Lions take to the pitch on March 8 against Zambia, the team who thrashed them 4-1 to knock them out of the World Cup.

1986 Jesse Owens international award goes to Moroccan Aouita

NEW YORK (AP) — Said Aouita, the Moroccan track star who set two world records last year and won a gold medal in the Los Angeles Olympics, Tuesday was named winner of the 1986 Jesse Owens International Amateur Athlete Award.

The award, named after the late track and field great who won four gold medals during the 1936 Olympic games, is presented annually to the athlete "who best personifies excellence in athletic performance and promotes sincere cooperation and understanding among peoples of all nations."

In the final balloting by an international panel of judges, the 25-year-old Aouita beat British middle distance runner Steve Cram and Soviet Union pole vaulter Sergei Bubka.

The three finalists were chosen from an original list of 21 candidates.

Aouita is the fifth consecutive track and field athlete to win the award in its six-year history. Speedskater Eric Heiden of the United States was the first winner in 1981. He was followed by British middle distance runner Sebastian Coe, women's middle distance runner Mary Decker Slaney of the United States, intermediate hurdler Edwin Moses of the United States and American sprinter-longer Carl Lewis.

During a six-week period in 1985, Aouita established world records in the men's 1,500-metre race with a clocking of three minutes, 29.46 seconds and the 5,000 metres (13:00.4). He also ran the second-fastest mile in history (3:46.92), the third-fastest 3,000 metres (7:32.94) and the fourth-fastest 2,000 metres (4:54.02) in a race in which he injured a hamstring and was forced to hop the

final 20 metres. In 1984, he won the Olympic 5,000 in 13:05.59, a games record.

Aouita also has shown proficiency at shorter distances. He has run the 200 metres in 22.8, the 400 in 46.9 and the 800 in 1:46.9.

Aouita's abilities as a runner were first uncovered by his soccer coach. During a routine team workout, Aouita ran 3,000 metres in a time that broke the Moroccan junior record.

The announcement of the winner was made by Herbert Douglas Jr., founder of the award.

"Like Jesse (Owens), Said Aouita has worked long and hard to become a world-class athlete," Douglas said. "His record of perseverance and endless determination sets him apart. He's a great champion."

Teamwork strategy helps Bucks win over Los Angeles Clippers

NEW YORK (AP) — Playing without scoring leader Sidney Moncrief, the Milwaukee Bucks used an old fashioned strategy to win their ninth consecutive game — teamwork.

Terry Cummings scored 16 points and Paul Pressey contributed 10 points and 16 assists Tuesday night to give Milwaukee a 114-99 National Basketball Association (NBA) decision over the Los Angeles Clippers.

"The whole concept is team play," Cummings said. Besides Cummings and Pressey six other Bucks scored in double figures. Moncrief, averaging 20.2 points, was out with the flu after earning NBA player of the week honours last week.

Elsewhere in the NBA Tuesday night, Golden State beat New Jersey 116-109, Boston routed New York 91-74, Indiana downed Washington 100-87, Philadelphia defeated Chicago 122-108, Denver trounced Phoenix 112-99, Utah edged Houston 100-97 and Sacramento nipped Seattle 102-100.

"Without (Moncrief), we have to play with an extra effort, Craig Hodges said. "The fact that we had eight players in double figures, shows that everyone got into the flow of the game."

Also scoring in double figures for the Bucks were Randy Breuer with 15 points, Kenny Fields with 14, Alton Lister with 13, Mike Glenn with 12 and Ricky Pierce with 10.

Warriors 116, Nets 109
Joe Barry Carroll scored 25

points and keyed a decisive fourth-quarter rally to lead Golden State over the Michael Ray Richardson-less New Jersey.

The drug-plagued Richardson was banned from the league for life earlier in the day by commissioner David Stern after committing his third offense under the league's drug enforcement policy.

Celtics 91, Knicks 74

Larry Bird had 24 points, 18 rebounds and 13 assists and sparked a Boston streak with eight consecutive points during a 12-0 third-quarter run.

Patrick Ewing led the Knicks with 16 points in his first game after missing seven games with an injured knee. The loss was the ninth in 10 games for New York.

Pacers 100, Bullets 87

Herb Williams scored 24 points and grabbed 14 rebounds to pace six Indiana players in double figures.

Uyers 122, Bulls 108

Moses Malone scored a season-high 42 points and Charles

Barkley added 30 and 15 rebounds to lead Philadelphia.

The Bulls were paced by rookie Charles Oakley's career-high 31 points and reserve guard Michael Holton's 21.

Nuggets 112, Suns 99

Alex English scored 41 points, surpassing the 40-point mark for the seventh time this season, to lead the Nuggets to their sixth straight victory.

Jazz 100, Rockets 97

Adrian Dantley scored 35 points, including 25 in the first half, and Houston's Allen Leavell missed a three-point shot at the buzzer.

Rickey Green finished with 23 points for the Jazz, including seven down the stretch, as Utah overcame an early rocket advantage. Thurl Bailey added 18 for Utah.

Kings 102, SuperSonics 100

Lassalle Thompson made a 12-foot jumper with 20 seconds left to extend the Sacramento's longest winning streak of the season to five games.

Venables dismisses Schuster as Barcelona club captain

BARCELONA, Spain (R) — West German midfielder Bernd Schuster has been dismissed as Barcelona captain by the club's English coach Terry Venables following a lengthy dispute with the club. Venables said: "Schuster was the link between the team and myself and that link does not work. This player has twice refused to talk with me."

He said club president Jose Luis Nunez had endorsed his decision. Venables said Schuster, who has been out through injury for five weeks, was virtually certain not to play against European cup holders Juventus of Italy in their quarter-final first leg match on March 5. Schuster, 26, has said he wants to leave Barcelona at the end of the current season, but his contract does not expire until June next year. Schuster, one of Europe's finest players, has also refused to play for the West German national team for personal reasons.

Unseeded Spanish upsets Anger in La Quinta games

LA QUINTA, California (R) — Unseeded Jose Higueras of Spain upset American Matt Anger 7-5, 7-5 Tuesday in the second round of the \$405,000 men's Grand Prix tournament.

Higueras, 32, who quit competitive tennis last November, has come back and picked up his reputation again as one of the steady players in the game.

The 22-year-old American found himself being ruthlessly passed if he came to net but could

not stay in the back court and rally with one of the game's most consistent groundstrokes.

Fourth seeded Yannick Noah of France showed off his spectacular athleticism on the stadium court Tuesday with a 6-4, 6-4 victory over unseeded American, Tim Wilkinson.

American amateur, Dan Goldie, who is still in college at Stanford, ousted 14th seed Jacob Hlasek of Switzerland in a first round match, 4-6, 6-4, 6-4.

Judges disqualify four British, Soviet runners in 400m match

LONDON (R) — All four runners in the men's 400 metres athletics match between Britain and the Soviet Union were disqualified.

The problem began when Scot Brian Whitte overtook Vladimir Prosin shortly after half way. The Russian caught his foot and they crashed to the floor, bringing down the other Briton Max Robertson.

The three got up and completed the race but were disqualified for leaving the track. Russian Vladimir Kzylov, who crossed the line first, was then thrown out for running out of his lane.

Whittle said: "It is crazy. What did I do wrong? The Russian tripped me from behind."

He added: "It looks like they decided to disqualify us to save face rather than throw out two Russians. I suppose it was the diplomatic way out."

Although none of the runners took points in the match they were still presented with commemorative medals on the victory rostrum.

The British selectors were under fire later for picking a weak team as the Soviet Union won the first seven events.

There was more confusion at the meeting, held in the midlands indoor venue of Cosford, when the judges gave victory in the men's 60 metres hurdles to Britain's Colin Jackson, only to reverse their decision and name Russian Sergei Ussov the winner.

Britain's new European indoor 200 metres champion Linford Christie put a brief stop to the Russians' overwhelming superiority, but the visitors ran out comfortable winners — 80-58 in the men's event and 77-40 in the women's.

CENTRAL TENDER No. 4/86

Construction of the compulsory schools / The Sixth Education Project.

The contractors who had been qualified previously for the Sixth Education Project and willing to participate in the following bid are requested to get bid documents from the project directorate, Ministry of Education from 24/2/1986 with the following conditions:-

1. The Sixth Education project is partially financed by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and the compulsory schools were divided into ten groups and these tender buildings constitute the ninth group.

2. Description of the announced tender: No. 4/86, which includes the construction of compulsory schools at the following sites: 4/86: Rusayfah, Chifa Badran, Al-Kamaleh, with an area of about 11778 m².

3. Prices of the documents and tender bond as follow:

Tender No.	Price	Tender Bond
4/86	JD 250	JD 30,000

4. Last date for receiving copy of tender is 29/3/1986.

5. Last date of submission of offers is 12 O'clock 5/4/1986 at the Department of Government Tender Directorate.

Chairman of the Central Committee
Director of the Government Tendering Directorate.

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(Colour)

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30

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(Colour)

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:15

Cinema RAGHADAN

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Performances: 12:00, 3:00, 6:30, 8:30

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Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30

مركزنا من الأجل

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets.

One sterling	1.4900/10	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3865/70	Canadian dollars
	2.2550/60	West German marks
	2.5505/15	Dutch guilders
	1.8865/75	Swiss francs
	46.17/19	Belgian francs
	6.9300/50	French francs
	1535/1536	Italian lire
	181.25/35	Japanese yen
	7.2100/50	Swedish crowns
	7.0675/825	Norwegian crowns
	8.3290/3340	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	351.85/352.35	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Share prices closed mixed but with a firmer bias having opened lower following profit taking Tuesday. At 1530 Wednesday the FTSE 100 share index was up six points at 1,533.7.

Dealers said the market recovered on bargain hunting and sentiment was boosted by better than expected U.K. trade figures for January and the opening higher trend on Wall Street Wednesday.

Government bonds showed net gains ranging to about half a point but gold shares were easier on balance with the bullion price. North Americans were mixed.

U.S. demand was noted in ICI which touched 914 before reacting to show a 3p gain at 907 while Jaguar farmer 17p to 468. Grand Met at 416, A.B. Foods at 284 and J. Sainsbury at 392 were each 10p higher.

Granada closed 18p lower at 268 after Rank's bid for the company met opposition from the Independent Broadcasting Authority, dealers said. Rank was 5p up at 422 but it intends proceeding with its bid for Granada.

Insurances were sharply higher on institutional demand which left Legal 15p up at 757 but banks eased slightly. Oils showed modest advances.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, FEB. 27, 1986

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The daytime is fine for getting along very well with those you would like to be a part of your existence in the days ahead, so encourage alliance with them over a period of time.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Look to your associates in the business world if you want to get ahead much faster now, so be very cooperative.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Be precise in the handling of any jobs ahead of you today and show much efficiency. Avoid one who is a gossip.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Bring your fine talents to the attention of bigwigs during the day and gain their support so you can accomplish much with them.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Get busy and make your home charming and a comfortable place to live in. Be calm with an angry family member.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Listen carefully to your partners' ideas since they could be profitable to you also in the near future. Forget calling one who is depressed.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Keep busy at financial and property interests now since your business acumen is fine today. Show that you are clever with investments.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You look charming today and can gain your personal desires with relative ease now. Tend to a long-time problem this evening.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Study every angle of any plan you make so that you can get your most cherished wishes. Surprise loved one with a gift.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Come to a fine understanding with your friends, be they in business or otherwise. Be more thoughtful of kin.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Do those things that will gain you more prestige in the community in which you dwell. Avoid an argument in the evening.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Be kind and courteous with a newcomer who can be of assistance to you in the future. Plan an upcoming trip.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Try to be more cooperative with others today and get excellent results, especially with partners.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will want to help others attain their aims and will do so in a charming manner and thereby be very successful and popular. Be most encouraging in projecting these traits so that the life can be a happy adventure.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, FEB. 28, 1986

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Until noon, decide the policies and principles under which you wish to live and get along with other persons and how you can be more exact in your work.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Come to a meeting of minds with your partners where important matters and issues are concerned. Organize outside interests.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Add your special talent to whatever work you are doing today and get excellent results. Discuss a new job with an associate.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Seek pleasure you like during the day and tonight you can handle much that has to be done. Start on a new money-making venture.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Plan how to give backing to your kin that is needed and then do so. Make the future brighter for them.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Get busy going after the goals that your partners have suggested for you, and this can bring you greater success.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Take the advice of experts and you can easily make your dreams a reality in due course of time. Seek needed information.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You feel happy and dynamic today and can improve your personal relationships, making the future more secure.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Seek the right advisor who can give the best suggestions in your particular situation, then you make progress.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You are a particular person and can make progress by going forward in a like fashion. Gain what you most desire.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You are inspired how to get ahead faster, so talk this over with a prominent person and get needed backing.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You have much ability and should utilize it now to make quick progress in your career. Be supportive of a bigwig.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Be very precise and proper with usual affairs and get fine results. Be sure to fulfill promises to loved ones.

Oil price slump brings mixed blessings to West Europeans

LONDON (R) — Most West European motorists can blame taxation for the scant difference the big drop in world oil prices has made to what they pay at the petrol pump, according to a Renter survey.

West Germans may be celebrating the outcome of a fierce price war, but in most countries, petrol prices have fallen by less than 10 per cent.

West German and Dutch car owners have seen the biggest price drops, up to 30 per cent in some cases, and the British are enjoying a 16 per cent cut.

But in Ireland, Italy and Portugal, with Europe's dearest for-eign-currency rates, they have been paying more than they were in December.

Crude oil prices have halved over the past three months and wholesale petrol prices have followed suit. Super grade now fetches only some \$162 per tonne on the European spot market compared with \$280 in November.

But economists say car owners, wondering why this hasn't cut the cost of motoring much should look at the tax and duty they pay. In most countries, this means at least half the retail price, and in Italy, it's a steep 65 per cent.

Usually tax and duty are a fixed amount rather than a percentage indexed to wholesale levels. This restricts the chances of deep cuts in fore-cast prices, they say.

In Sweden, criticism is notably strong. "The government does everything it can to milk the industry through the petrol tax. It's easy to cash in and motorists are relatively insensitive to increases," said Mr. Stig Lundberg of the Swedish Petroleum Institute.

Politics have become deeply involved in petrol tax.

In France, a price war was triggered early last year when the government freed petrol prices from state control.

With elections due next month, the government has been content to let pump prices fall, reaping the benefit of lower inflation and a possible boost in its popularity at the polls.

But the centre-right opposition, widely tipped to win, is likely to

push up petrol tax to pay for the cuts in direct taxation and the state deficit which it has promised, industry analysts say.

In Britain, the conservative government has also hinted at income tax cuts, to be financed by North Sea oil revenue.

But crude oil's dive has put these plans in doubt. Drivers now fear Chancellor of the Exchequer (Finance Minister) Nigel Lawson may try to recoup lost income by raising petrol tax when he presents his budget next month.

Such a move would anger motoring organisations. "We would be absolutely opposed to that," said Mr. Malcolm Adcock of the Royal Automobile Club. "The motorist has been clobbered enough in previous budgets."

The changes of relief for Portugal's long-suffering motorists are remote, even though they pay the continent's highest prices after Italy and the Irish Republic.

Finance Minister Miguel Cadilhe has said he is unwilling to fore-go revenue by cutting petrol prices at the moment. Savings on oil import bills would give him more room for manoeuvre in curbing state spending.

Car owners have also accused oil refining firms of being reluctant to pass on the benefits of lower spot market prices.

But Mr. David Betts of Shell U.K. said prices before duty and tax had fallen by a quarter in the last year. Refining and marketing had until recently made heavy losses.

In the last few years, we've invested £1 billion in production and marketing. The return has been very poor," he told Reuters.

Industry analysts say refiners are likely to take advantage of low crude costs to boost their profit margins.

Not everyone in West Germany shares the motorists' joy at frequent cuts in prices. At weekends, have grown weary of having to change the fore-cast signs advertising their prices.

"It's been going on for weeks now — every second or third day up the ladder, down the ladder, it's like gymnastics," said one station attendant in suburban Bonn.

Congressmen believe U.S. deficit forecasts misleading

WASHINGTON (R) — Forecasts of falling U.S. budget deficits made by the White House and the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) have been greeted with widespread scepticism by congressional politicians and economists.

Congressional sources contacted by Reuters said one reason why there are so many doubters on Capitol Hill is the belief that the White House cannot, or will not, bring about significant cuts in defence spending.

The estimates released last week by the non-partisan CBO and the White House painted a far more optimistic picture of the deficit than shown previously.

Instead of a spending shortfall of \$200 billion or more in the fiscal year starting on Oct. 1, the CBO now puts the deficit at no

more than \$181 billion while the White House estimates the figure at \$182 billion.

"Hard to believe," said Senate Budget Committee economist, while a counterpart at the House Budget Committee warned that the two projections could be "wildly misleading."

Among Congress members, Senate Budget Committee Chairman Pete Domenici, a Republican, warned last week the improved deficit figures could "be used as an excuse to avoid making hard legislative choices," for voluntarily cutting spending.

If voluntary cuts are not made, automatic across-the-board reductions follow under the recent Gramm-Rudman law. However the law has been thrown into doubt by a federal court ruling striking down the automatic trigger as unconstitutional.

Philippines businesses, financial centres show very upbeat mood

MANILA (R) — The business and financial community in the Philippines was in an upbeat mood Wednesday, an abrupt change from the despair felt during the last two years of Ferdinand Marcos' 20-year rule.

The new mood of confidence — and a belief that foreign investors will now pour money into the country — followed the installation of Mrs. Corason Aquino as the new president.

Bankers and businessmen polled by Reuters said Mrs. Aquino, 53, had the solid backing of businessmen and her leadership was certain to restore financial confidence.

"There is no doubt she has the loyalty of the business community. But she must seize levers of power and announce a cabinet," one local banker said.

Mrs. Aquino meanwhile announced that she had retained Mr. Jose Fernandez as governor of the central bank, saying he had her full trust and confidence.

"Everything is under control," she told the nation in a statement as banks opened for the first time since Friday.

"There is no need for you to unnecessarily withdraw huge amounts of money. Our banking system has to be further stabilised."

Bankers said there were no heavy withdrawals Wednesday. One central bank source said domestic confidence in Mrs. Aquino was very high. "You watch it, the economy will take off. There is no doubt about it," he added.

The source said the business mood was "very upbeat" and there was little doubt foreign investment would pour in again because "Aquino has the mandate of the people."

Foreign bankers have maintained that their confidence in the financially-crippled country would depend on local confidence.

The past two years were economically disastrous for the Philippines which owes \$25 billion in foreign debt.

The collapse of financial confidence began with the 1983 murder of Mrs. Aquino's politician husband, Benigno, and the subsequent massive flight of capital.

Despite Marcos' efforts the economy contracted by 5.5 per cent in 1984 and 3.9 per cent last year. Inflation averaged 50 per cent in 1984 although it dropped to 23 per cent last year.

Businessman Raul Concepcion said Mrs. Aquino's installation was a big boost. "Investor confidence will return and we are optimistic the economy can recover at a faster pace," he said.

Another businessman, Mr. Victor Barrios, said: "I think the best and most immediate effect of having a new government is the arrest in the slide of confidence in government not only by businessmen but also by other sectors."

Mrs. Aquino has not outlined a detailed economic programme but has said she will ask foreign banks, which assembled a \$10 billion economic recovery plan, to reconsider terms of debts re-structured by them.

She will also have to deal with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) which monitors the country's economy. The IMF imposed strict monetary and fiscal restrictions after advancing a 615 million Special Drawing Rights standby credit.

It has postponed a review mission to Manila and the country has yet to draw the last two tranches of the credit.

Central bank sources said massive election spending by Marcos was certain to have breached money supply targets.

Mrs. Aquino has yet to begin grappling with the problems but all agree she has inherited an economy in almost total shambles.

Her leadership could either "crown" businessmen of Marcos who have been widely accused of plundering the economy.

One target of the opponents was her cousin Eduardo Cojuangco, the boss of the giant San Miguel brewery and food conglomerate who supported Marcos.

Khartoum devalues free market pound

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan has devalued the free market rate for the Sudanese pound by 22.4 per cent to 4.25 to the dollar from 3.30, a Bank of Sudan spokesman said Wednesday.

The official rate remains unchanged at 2.50 pounds to the U.S. currency, the central bank spokesman, quoted by the official daily Al-Ayam said.

The free market rate, fixed periodically by a committee of commercial bankers in line with supply and demand, applies to bank transfers including remittances from Sudanese abroad.

The official rate applies to exports, invisible trade, debt repayments and imports. The government last month announced plans to bring all imports under public sector control.

Finance Minister Sidahmed Tayfour said on Feb. 10 Sudan had told the International Monetary Fund (IMF) it intended to postpone devaluation of the pound for four or five months. He was apparently referring only to the official rate.

Mr. Tayfour said this was to leave the decision until after general elections to return Sudan to civilian rule, scheduled for April, when the new government would be able to decide its economic strategy.

The IMF declared Sudan ineligible for further loans on Feb. 3 and demanded a devaluation, after it failed to pay off arrears of \$220 million on outstanding IMF loans.

The Bank of Sudan official said the new rate would be reviewed by the committee in the light of inflows of foreign currency.

Gorbachev promises radical reforms for factories, farms

MOSCOW (AP) — Kremlin leader, Mikhail S. Gorbachev, on Tuesday announced reforms of the sluggish Soviet economy, giving top priority to easing perennial food shortages by promising farmers higher prices for their goods and more independence from the state.

Addressing 5,000 delegates on the first day of the 27th Soviet Communist Party Congress, Mr. Gorbachev said he favoured more private enterprise in service industries, more local initiative and less central planning.

He indicated blue and white-collar workers will be shifted from their jobs by factory modernisation and merging of the myriad bureaucracies running the economy.

He also hinted at reform of the country's heavily subsidised price structure and a hike in cheap state rents to help meet a pledge of giving a home or separate apartment to every family by 2000.

Saying the country's food needs must be fully met "in the shortest time possible," Mr. Gorbachev evoked the new economic programme set up by Soviet founder Vladimir I. Lenin in the 1920s and remembered today as yielding good and varied food supplies.

The programme was scrapped when Mr. Josef V. Stalin forced through an often bloody collectivisation of agriculture.

"The main idea is to give broad scope to economically viable management methods, to substantially broaden the autonomy of collective farms and state farms to give them a greater incentive and responsibility for the final results," Mr. Gorbachev said.

In the future, he said, farms will receive fixed plans for purchase of their produce by the state.

"The farms will be given the opportunity to use, as they see fit, all the produce harvested over and above the plan: In the case of fruit and potatoes and other vegetables they will also be able to use a considerable part of the planned produce as they see fit," he said.

Republics, territories and regions will be given fixed produce quotas for delivery to central farm organs, Mr. Gorbachev said.

Spurring local initiative, he said any produce above those quotas can be used to meet local food needs.

Mr. Gorbachev said better harvesting, transportation, storage and processing of agricultural produce could yield a 20 to 30 per cent growth in the availability of some food products.

In industry, Mr. Gorbachev confirmed that experiments launched under their president Yuri V. Andropov in 1984 to give local management more say in production would be extended nationwide next year.

But he said the experiments would have worked much better if central organs had stopped interfering and exercising "petty tutelage" over enterprises.

The state planning committee, known as Gosplan, must stop over-seeing minute details of the economy and become a think-tank encouraging scientific progress and putting new discoveries into industrial use more quickly, Mr. Gorbachev said.

African OPEC members form new oil organisation

ALGIERS (R) — Four African oil producers created their own organisation Tuesday but vowed to avoid conflict with OPEC, to which they also belong.

They appealed to non-OPEC oil states to help check the falling price of oil.

The founders of the African Hydrocarbon Association (AHA) are Algeria, Nigeria, Libya and Gabon.

AHA, born against the background of tumbling prices and disunity in OPEC (Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) was set up at a two-day meeting in Algiers attended by three oil ministers and the Libyan ambassador in Algiers.

In an official statement, the four appealed "urgently to non-OPEC members to join with OPEC to share responsibility with it for restoring stability to the oil market."

They said AHA did not intend to "enter into conflict with any other organisations to which its members belong."

It said "the chaotic state of the current market because of the prices practised does not serve the interests of OPEC."

The four African states reaffirmed "the necessity to reinforce the organisation with a view to appropriate action to protect their common interests."

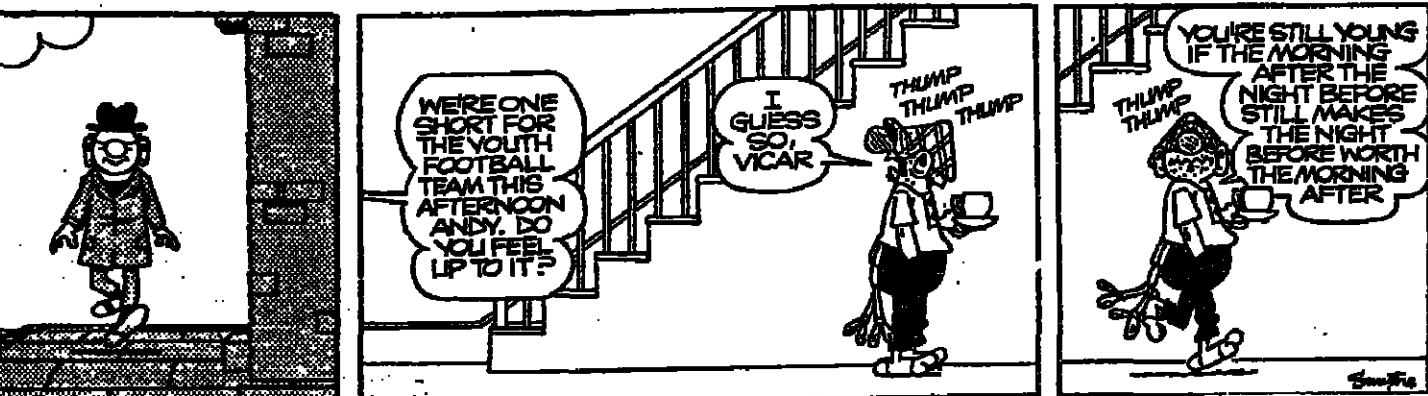
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Mutt 'n' Jeff

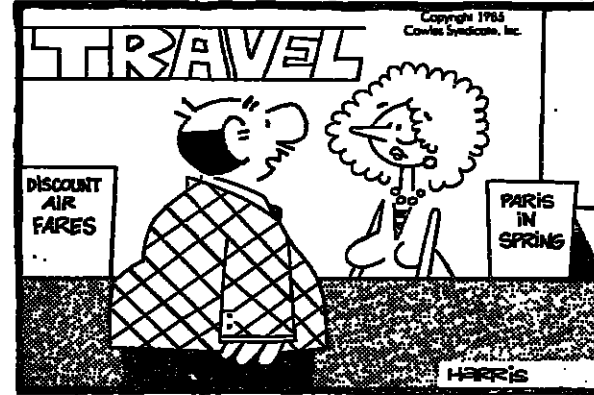


Andy Capp



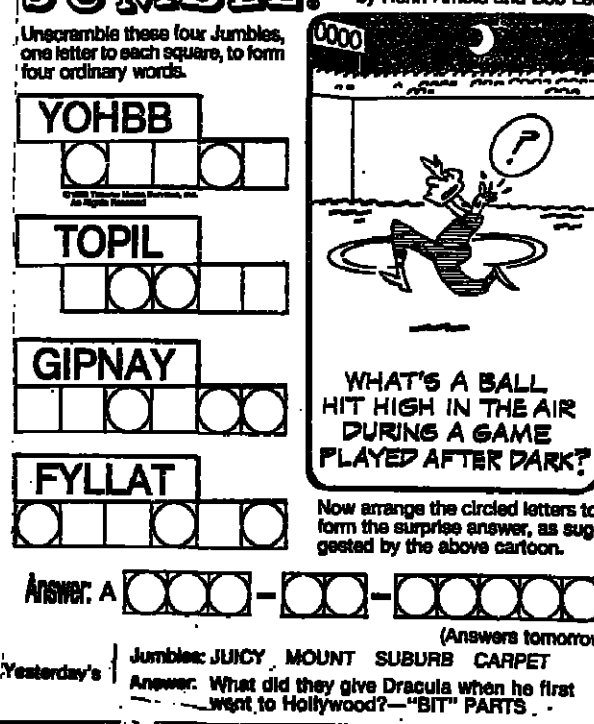
THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee



World welcomes Aquino as president

NEW YORK (Agencies) — World leaders welcomed Corazon Aquino to their ranks Wednesday, praising her for inspiring an almost bloodless revolt that broke Ferdinand Marcos' tenacious 20-year rule of the Philippines.

In Ottawa, Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney sent a message of congratulations to Mrs. Aquino, calling her an "inspiration for the world."

Mr. Mulroney's message, sent through Canada's embassy in Manila, lauded Mrs. Aquino's "courage, determination, political vision and commitment to democratic principles" in the battle to topple Marcos.

Marcos relinquished power Tuesday in the face of mounting domestic and foreign pressure. Both he and Mrs. Aquino had claimed victory after the Feb. 7 election that was marked by charges of widespread electoral fraud by government supporters.

Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke paid tribute to the "magnificent resolve of the millions of Filipinos who, through their commitment to democracy and to fairness and justice in the conduct of your country's affairs, managed to secure the victory that was properly theirs."

In Tokyo, Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe said, "the government of Japan is pleased that the recent tense stand-off in the Philippines has been resolved peacefully without the tragedy of bloodshed."

Mr. Abe said in a statement, "the government of Japan is hopeful that the people of the Philippines will unite behind the new

government led by President Aquino and move ahead with the task of nation-building."

The Singapore government issued a statement saying: "President Corazon Aquino and the Filipino people can take pride in overcoming a grave political crisis in a manner that does credit to democracy."

While most of the world's governments welcomed the change of power in the Philippines, East Bloc nations largely ignored it. The Soviet News Agency TASS and Radio Moscow briefly reported Marcos' departure but without comment. The Soviet Union was the only government to congratulate Marcos on winning the Feb. 7 election.

Poland's state radio also announced Marcos' loss of office without comment.

Yugoslavia's official Tanjug News Agency said: "Washington has pulled the strings in such a fashion the last couple of months so that it was clear that there was no help for Marcos."

In Managua, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega on Tuesday expressed the "joy of Nicaragua" over the fall of Marcos' government.

In a message to Mrs. Aquino, Mr. Ortega said: "Nicaragua is sure that in the new Philippines the people's aspirations for democracy, independence and social justice will continue to triumph

over the forces of backwardness and foreign dependence." Europe also welcomed the change. French Prime Minister Laurent Fabius said Tuesday that his country "is at the side of all people who struggle, at the side of Philippine democrats, at the side of Cory Aquino. In the name of France, we condemn, as we have always done, dictatorship in any form and in particular when it takes a form called Marcos."

In The Hague, the foreign ministers of the 12-nation European Community congratulated Mrs. Aquino "for her consistent stand in defence of democratic principles." Austrian President Rudolf Kirchschlaeger sent a congratulatory message to Mrs. Aquino saying in part: "I am confident that the Philippine people under your leadership will resolutely follow the way to a peaceful, democratic and happy future."

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, speaking in the House of Commons, noted that the United States had recognised Mrs. Aquino as president and said, "we will wish her well." In India, a statement from the External Affairs Ministry said, "Mrs. Aquino... has consistently stood for a peaceful and non-violent solution of the situation in the Philippines. India has always stood in favour of democratic principles and respect for the will of the people."

In Peking, the Chinese Foreign Ministry issued a statement saying "China and the Philippines are friendly neighbours. The Chinese government welcomes the new government of the Republic of the Philippines formed by Mrs. Aquino."

In South Korea, the government praised the "wisdom and courage" of the Filipinos in achieving a nearly bloodless ouster. South Korea's two leading dissidents called Marcos' overthrow part of a trend toward democracy.

The United States led the world Tuesday in welcoming the ouster of its former friend and ally, Marcos, and hailed Mrs. Aquino, the woman who, vanquished and replaced him.

The Western World breathed a sigh of relief as Marcos fled his presidential palace and left the field relatively peacefully to Mrs. Aquino.

President Reagan telephoned congratulations to Mrs. Aquino, a spokesman for her said in Manila, as Secretary of State George Shultz announced in Washington that the U.S. government had recognised Mrs. Aquino as the country's new president.

Initial reaction was more restrained among the Philippines partners in the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN). A Singapore Foreign Ministry spokesman said his country would recognise Mrs. Aquino's government but time was needed to coordinate with the other ASEAN countries — Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Mochtar Kusumaatmadja said



Corazon Aquino

Jakarta was also ready to recognise Mrs. Aquino.

"Of course, we should accept (Marcos' departure) as a statement of the will of the Philippine people," he told journalists. "I think the problem has been solved finally."

Some of the most jubilant statements came from Philippine diplomats abroad, some of whom helped to demolish Marcos power base by announcing as early as Tuesday their support for Mrs. Aquino.

The Philippines representative at the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva acclaimed Mrs. Aquino as "a modern-day saint."

"Today begins a new era of hope for the hopeless, justice for the oppressed and equality for all," Rosalinda Tirona told the 43-nation body in an unscheduled address.

Charry Samper, Colombian chairman of the commission, said: "I cannot hide my satisfaction at what has happened. I am neutral, but I am certainly not indifferent."

General strike paralyses much of India

BOMBAY (R) — A general strike against price rises paralysed much of India Wednesday in the opposition's most effective action against Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's 16-month rule.

Protesters sat on rail lines and let down bus tyres to stop transport while police arrested more than 3,000 people throughout the country to prevent violence.

The 24-hour strike brought business to a halt in two-thirds of India's 22 states including Bombay, the nation's commercial capital.

A parallel strike by six million civil servants against long-standing legislation allowing their dismissal without reason shut or badly disrupted government offices.

In New Delhi about 10,000 people demonstrated near Parliament against the price rises and opposition members walked out of the legislature.

The rises earlier this month involve increases of up to 15 per cent on everyday items like bread, rice, petrol, and kerosene.

The government imposed the price rises to halt a worsening balance of payments position and contain a budget deficit which many economists say is double the government estimate of 34 billion rupees (\$3.4 billion).

In its latest effort to bridge the deficit the government Wednesday announced rail fare rises of up to 12.5 per cent.

Further measures to increase revenue are expected to be announced in the country's budget this Friday.

The general strike was the climax of a series of protests since the price rises were announced.

At the New Delhi rally H.N. Bahuguna, leader of the opposition Lok Dal Party, said Mr. Gandhi was taking the country towards economic ruin.

"This young man, an infant politician, seems to have a single minded obsession to take India into the 21st Century with computers," Mr. Bahuguna said.

The independent Business Standard, one of India's most respected financial newspapers, said Mr. Gandhi's ideas on the economy were without vision.

COLUMNS 7&8

Rare whale beached in Oregon

LINCOLN CITY, Oregon (R) — A Bering Sea beaked whale — so rare it has been seen only a few dozen times by man — has beached itself and died near its central Oregon coastal town. Scientists from Oregon State University said Wednesday they were cleaning up the skeleton of the two-ton, 16-foot whale for shipment to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington. They said the species was first sighted 100 years ago, and the skeletons of one adult female and two young are already in the Smithsonian collection. "Never before has there been an intact skeleton collected from an adult male of this species," said Bruce Mate, an Oregon State University marine specialist who led the group of scientists who cleaned up the skeleton. He added: "This is the first time any of us have seen this kind of animal. We may not see another in our lifetime." He said that, while an autopsy may not reveal the cause of death, it had provided valuable information about the whale's eating habits.

Fire damages Moscow's circus building

MOSCOW (R) — Fire swept through Moscow's Old Circus Wednesday, badly damaging the popular century-old building, but not people or animals were inside at the time, firemen said. Some half dozen fire engines rushed to the scene and police closed off part of the elegant Tsvetnoi Boulevard on which the pastel yellow building stands. Shoppers emerging from the nearby central market watched efforts to quell the blaze. "What a shame. I have been coming here since I was a child," one said. The circus was due to be partially demolished under reconstruction plans, but architects had been hoping to preserve some features and incorporate them into a new circus complex on the site. The capital also has a modern circus but the old one was a favourite with Muscovites and provincial visitors alike.

W. German film gets top award

BERLIN (AP) — Stammheim, the Trial, a vivid film about West German terrorists in the 1970s, won the Golden Bear Award Tuesday, the top prize at the 1986 Berlin Film Festival. The Italian film *The Mess Is In* by Nanni Moretti; Young Composer's *Odyssey* by Soviet director Georgi Schengelaia; and the Japanese film *Conzara the Spearman*, by Masahiro Shinoda, were awarded Silver Bears by the festival judges. American Dean Pariso's production *Tom Goes To The Bar* was awarded a Golden Bear for best short film, with the Silver Bear Award given to Hungarian Csaba Varga for his short *Augusta Feeds*. Silver Bears for Best Actress were shared by Brazilian Marcela Cartaxo for her role in the *Hour Of The Star*, and Charlotte Valandey of France for her performance in *Red Kiss*, a joint French-West German production. Turkish actor Tuncel Kurtiz won a Silver Bear as Best Actor for his role in the Israeli film *Smile Of The Lamb*. The jury of 11, headed by veteran Italian actress Gina Lollobrigida, also awarded Derek Jarman a Silver Lion for creative arrangement in the British film *Caravaggio*.

34 die in Chinese festival crush

PEKING (R) — Thirty-four people died and 33 others were injured in a crowd crush at a traditional Lantern Festival at Jinhua in eastern China, the Shanghai Evening News reported. In an edition reaching here Wednesday, the newspaper said the tragedy occurred on Sunday night when an iron gate collapsed as 50,000 people struggled to get into a park where hundreds of colourful lanterns were on display.

Poll: French opposition election lead narrowing

PARIS (R) — France's ruling Socialists are whittling away the opposition's lead in the race for the March 16 general election, according to an opinion poll published Wednesday.

The poll carried out for Le Figaro newspaper gave the Socialists 29 per cent of the vote, up from 27.5 per cent in mid-February, enough to give them 195 seats out of the 555 to be disputed in Metropolitan France.

The opposition alliance of the centre-right UDF and the Gaullist RPR was shown as winning 43.5 per cent of the vote, a fall of 1.5 per cent.

The poll predicted a slim overall majority of 16 seats for the UDF-RPR, but analysts said this could well evaporate in the remaining two and a half weeks if the Socialists maintained their recovery.

Under the modified proportional voting system, the RPR and UDF have to win at least 43 per cent of the vote to be sure of controlling the National Assembly.

A further 22 deputies will be elected by overseas departments and territories, injecting further uncertainty into the result.

The poll provided gloomy reading for the Communists, now credited with only 9.5 per cent of

the vote compared to 11 per cent two weeks ago.

The Socialists have been bidding hard for support among the Communist electorate, arguing that a vote for the Communist ticket will be wasted.

The poll gave 8.5 per cent support to the extreme right National Front, enough to give it 29 seats compared to the Communists' 36.

The UDF and RPR have ruled out any alliance with the National Front, counting on winning an absolute majority on their own.

But the opposition partnership has been undermined by the maverick tactics of influential former Premier Raymond Barre, who says he will withhold support from any government formed while President Francois Mitterrand stays in office.

The opposition leader in the strongest position to be prime minister, RPR chief Jacques Chirac, is expected to argue in a television interview that "cohabitation" with Mr. Mitterrand is the opposition's only viable course.

Mr. Chirac has recently been moderating his attacks on the head of state, who has refused to speculate on who he will name head of government after the election.

British artists take top honours in music awards

LOS ANGELES (R) — Phil Collins was the top "grammy" winner as British artists dominated the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences annual awards.

Collins, a singer, drummer, composer and producer, took the Album of the Year Award for *No Jacket Required* and was also voted producer of the year for the album.

British singer Sade was voted Best New Artist, and to round off the British invasion of the Grammys, guitarist Jeff Beck won best rock instrumentalist, Dire Straits was best rock group, Cleo Laine won for best female jazz singer, Andrew Lloyd Webber for best contemporary classical composer and the Rolling Stones took a lifetime achievement award.

We Are the World from the U.S. was voted Best Song, Best Record and Best Short Video of

1985. It was sung by U.S. Aid For Africa group of more than 50 top recording artists, including Michael Jackson, Lionel Richie, Stevie Wonder, Harry Belafonte, Bruce Springsteen, Bob Dylan and Diana Ross.

The three accolades brought awards to Jackson and Richie as writers of the best song, and to Quincy Jones as producer of the best record.

The Rolling Stones were recognised as "the most volatile and intact group to survive the sixties."

The award was presented to the band at a ceremony in London's Roof Garden Club by guitarist Eric Clapton and relayed live to the star-studded Los Angeles audience.

Other lifetime achievement awards went to jazz clarinetist and band leader Benny Goodman.

2 Italians held for spying

COMISO, Sicily (AP) — Two Italians have been arrested in what newspapers said Wednesday appears to be an espionage case involving Libya and military secrets from the NATO base of nearby Comiso.

Italian Military Police in Comiso confirmed the arrests of Giuseppe Franchi, an official working for the Italian military aeronautical sector, and Paolo Riglio, a private television station operator.

But they refused to comment on any aspect of the case, as did officials from the Italian Ministries of Defence and the Interior. NATO officials told the Associated Press it was "premature" to comment before other details were known, while a U.S. embassy spokesman said, "it's all speculation at this point."

Italian newspaper accounts said the two men were arrested Tuesday by police in coordination with the Italian Secret Services on suspicion of espionage.

The daily newspaper La Stampa of Turin, quoting unidentified sources within the secret service, said Italian authorities had foiled what was supposed to be a "drop" of information from the Comiso base — where U.S. cruise missiles are based — to a Libyan agent.

But, noted the U.S. embassy spokesman, "these supposed documents have not been confirmed by anybody."

The newspaper accounts varied on whether the purported Libyan agent was arrested or whether he managed to escape.

Libyan leader Col. Muammar Qadhafi has long insisted that the Comiso base is "a nest of spies" and urged Sicilians to get rid of the U.S. missile base.

Cruise missile crashes in test over Canada

COLD LAKE, Alberta (R) — An unarmed U.S. cruise missile plunged into the Beaufort Sea moments after it was launched from a B-52 bomber on a test flight over northern Canada, a Canadian forces spokesman said.

Capt. Ross Hicks said there was no immediate indication of what caused the crash.

A joint U.S.-Canadian military team was being organised to recover the missile, which was launched in darkness for a scheduled 2,400 kilometres flight down the Mackenzie River Valley to the Cold Lake weapons testing range in northern Alberta.

"It is just getting light up there and we have yet to determine the condition of the missile and the remoteness of the area," Capt. Hicks said. "Reasons for the crash will be determined later."

The last test, on Jan. 22, ended in failure when the missile ran out of fuel close to its landing site after encountering strong headwinds.

Ulster Protestants break off talks with London

BELFAST (R) — Northern Ireland's Protestant leaders made a sudden about-face early Wednesday and ruled out any compromise with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher over her pact giving the Irish Republic a role in governing the province.

Hours after flying home from a meeting with Mrs. Thatcher which ended in agreement to keep talking, the two main leaders Ian Paisley and James Moynihan issued a joint statement rejecting further talks and reviving the threat of a general strike.

Their conciliatory response to Mrs. Thatcher was apparently overruled, political sources said, at a three-hour meeting with senior party colleagues on their return to Belfast.

The statement said: "While the prime minister is committed to the implementation of the Anglo-Irish agreement no purpose is served by any further discussing with her."

"We will now proceed to discharge our election mandate and withdraw the consent of the people of Northern Ireland from the government."

This revived the threat of a general strike on March 3 by the British-ruled province's Protestant majority. Both men had indicated in London the strike would be called off.

Queen in N. Zealand anti-nuclear row

WELLINGTON (R) — Queen Elizabeth Wednesday found herself at the centre of a political row after reading a government-prepared speech to parliament which defended New Zealand's controversial anti-nuclear policy.

The speech, a constitutional convention at the ceremonial state opening of parliament, outlined major elements of the coming legislative programme and was prepared by the Wellington government.

The queen said New Zealand would maintain its opposition to nuclear weapons and had already introduced a draft law making its ban on visiting nuclear warships permanent.

"The bill is not intended to in any way weaken New Zealand's security alliance (ANZUS) with the United States... or with Australia," she said.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher opposes the ban.

The queen's references to the ban on nuclear-armed or powered warships were sharply condemned by the main political opposition as insensitive and inappropriate.

Opposition leader Jim McLeay said Prime Minister David Lange should not have involved the queen.

In a direct reference to the row with Washington which has led to a near-total cut in defence links with New Zealand the Queen said it was acknowledged "that the operational character of (ANZUS) is the subject of dispute."

New Zealand wanted to retain and extend its long-standing friendship with the U.S. and would "adopt every diplomatic initiative possible to reach a satisfactory settlement."

The country was "among the most fortunate nations on earth," threatened by no-one and representing no threat, she added.

"At the heart of the government's foreign policy is a concern for the stability and peaceful development of the South Pacific," which would be reflected in defence decisions.

A senior royal official told Reuters Mr. Lange could put what he liked in the speech.

THE WEEKEND CROSSWORD

Edited by Herb Etkin

ACROSS

- Only
- 40 Equinox
- 41 Telling history
- 42 Part of M.L.M.
- 43 Studio?
- 44 Beach, Fla.
- 45 Family group
- 46 Astronaut's name
- 47 Karma
- 48 "..." of dread
- 49 Kind of rock
- 50 Large cask
- 51 Vitality
- 52 Netter's
- 53 Partner
- 54 Enticed
- 55 Melancholy
- 56 Cave name
- 57 Small duck
- 58 Protease?
- 59 Bond

DOWN

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Diagramless

19 X 19, by Mary Cox Whitton

ACROSS

- Watch strap
- Rec room
- Money player
- Fathers
- Small lake
- Hungry air
- Victor side
- Curt of "Pam"
- Triplet hero
- Handie's mate
- "Wonder Woman"
- Carter
- Talking tales

DOWN

- Allow of time
- "...essence"
- Loz roll
- Angulus
- Naval rank
- Hide and go
- Krupp's town
- Talk show host
- Aster Callahan
- Range
- Legume
- Do in
- Pink

Diagramless

19 X 19, by Mary Cox Whitton

ACROSS

- Cater's land
- Actors' plane
- Egypt's canal
- Rascal
- Pined
- "Ecuador" hero
- Bedazzle
- One-name
- Address
- Unsettling fact
- Cattle thief

DOWN

- Unearthed word
- Thun fish
- Tree
- Comerence
- Tripled place
- Pointed
- Waggoner
- TV
- Jogger's hero
- Stain
- Digit
- Commercials
- Yester's thing

Diagramless

19 X 19, by Mary Cox Whitton

ACROSS

- Islands holy
- "O Sole"
- ...brough
- Russ. peasant
- var.
- Court order
- Marble
- Autocrat
- Stare
- Sea-lan
- "...soil qu"
- Oriental money

DOWN

- Musical group
- slit
- Yarns
- "Doodle"
- Opined a crack
- many words
- Long river
- Confine
- Can. prov.
- Swiss canton

Diagramless

19 X 19, by Mary Cox Whitton

ACROSS

- Gluttony
- Luolt
- Hilt
- Glutod
- Luolt
- Yaon
- Gl
- Luile
- Hand
- U
- Nroonl
- Hilt
- Gunk
- Kynn

DOWN

- By Len Sherry
- By Rita Salvato
- By Rita Salvato
- By Rita Salvato

Diagramless

19 X 19, by Mary Cox Whitton

ACROSS

- Gluttony
- Luolt
- Hilt
- Glutod
- Luolt
- Yaon
- Gl
- Luile
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- Nroonl
- Hilt
- Gunk
- Kynn

DOWN

- By Len Sherry
- By Rita Salvato
- By Rita Salvato
- By Rita Salvato

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1 — East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ A1002 ♥ KQ3 ○ J5 ♣ K58
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♠ 2 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?

Q.2 — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ K10763 ♥ A98742 ○ 6 ♣ A
What is your opening bid?

Q.3 — Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 7 ♥ Q8873 ○ J107543 ♣ 8
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South
1 ♠ Double
What action do you take?

Q.4 — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 7 ♥ Q8873 ○ J107543 ♣ 8
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South
1 ♠ Double
What action do you take?

مكة من الرحمة